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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
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9 In re: Bard IVC Filters Products Liability
10 Litigation

No. MDL 15-02641

PRETRIAL ORDER NO. 3

11 THIS ORDER RELATES TO ALL
12 ACTIONS:

(Non-Waiver Order Pursuant to Rule
502(d) of the Federal Rules of Evidence)

13
14 **WHEREAS:**

15 (A) The parties seek to resolve disputes related to entries on past and future
16 privilege logs of Defendants C.R. Bard, Inc. and Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc.
17 (collectively “Bard”) withheld pursuant to the attorney-client privilege, the work-product
18 doctrine, and/or other privileges;

19 (B) In furtherance of this goal, Plaintiffs and Bard have entered into
20 negotiations, and counsel for the parties are meeting and conferring regularly regarding
21 Bard’s privilege logs;

22 (C) As part of the meet and confer process, Bard is reviewing certain privilege
23 log entries identified by Plaintiffs. Bard may provide the Plaintiffs with a small number
24 of these identified items for inspection from time to time to further the meet and confer
25 discussions; and

26 (D) As part of the meet and confer process, Bard may choose to withdraw
27 certain claims of attorney-client privilege, the work-product doctrine, and/or other
28 privilege(s), and produce the previously withheld items.

1 Therefore, the parties have agreed, and

2 **IT IS ORDERED:**

3 1. The parties' discussions, Bard's disclosure or production of the contents or
4 copies of the documents or items on its past and/or future privilege logs as part of the
5 meet and confer process shall not, pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d),
6 constitute any waiver of any privilege and/or work-product protection in this MDL, or in
7 any other federal or state proceeding.

8 2. This Order does not alter or amend Section VII, Paragraph 31 of the
9 Stipulated Protective Order (Doc. 269), entitled "Inadvertent Production."

10 Dated this 1st day of December, 2015.

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15 David G. Campbell
16 United States District Judge
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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
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9 IN RE: BARD IVC FILTERS PRODUCTS
10 LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL No. 2641

11 This Order Relates to: All Actions
12

13 Defendants C. R. Bard, Inc. and Bard Peripheral Vascular Services, Inc. (“Bard”)
14 seek a protective order to prevent Plaintiffs from using the December 15, 2004 report of
15 Dr. John Lehmann. Doc. 306. The issues are fully briefed (Docs. 379, 412), and the
16 Court heard oral argument on January 29, 2016 (Doc. 507). The Court concludes that no
17 additional discovery or evidentiary hearing is necessary to resolve this issue. For the
18 following reasons, the Court will grant Bard’s motion.

19 **I. Background.**

20 The facts in this section are taken largely from testimony given in an evidentiary
21 hearing in *Alexander v. Bard*, No. 3:12-CV-05187-O-BK (N.D. Tex. June 11, 2014). *See*
22 Doc. 319-2 at 7-137. The Court will explain later in this order why it finds the testimony
23 credible.

24 Dr. Lehmann is a consultant who has provided different services to Bard at
25 different times. Beginning in late 2003, Dr. Lehmann was retained to serve as Bard’s
26 acting director of medical services. Doc. 319-2 at 93, 107-08. Dr. Lehmann served in
27 this capacity until Bard hired Dr. David Ciavarella to replace him in May 2004.
28 Docs. 319-2 at 93-94; 412-1 at 6. As acting medical director, Dr. Lehmann reviewed and

1 approved documents, prepared health hazard evaluations (“HHE”) and remedial action
2 plans (“RAP”), responded to queries from various medical divisions, and assisted in
3 Bard’s hiring of Dr. Ciavarella. Doc. 319-2 at 93-96. In this role, Dr. Lehmann drafted
4 two HHEs that are particularly relevant to this dispute: the March 10, 2004 HHE
5 (Doc. 445-1 at 4-15), and the April 27, 2004 HHE (Doc. 414 at 3-15), both of which
6 address Recovery Filter migration events. The Law Department occasionally asked Dr.
7 Lehmann in his capacity as acting medical director to review medical records for
8 particular cases. Doc. 319-2 at 30. Once Bard hired Dr. Ciavarella, Dr. Lehmann did not
9 work on anything related to the Recovery Filter until the Law Department retained his
10 services in November 2004. *Id.* at 102.

11 In early 2004, Bard began receiving notices of adverse events associated with the
12 Recovery Filter. For example, in February 2004 Bard learned of a patient death related to
13 the migration of a Recovery Filter. Docs. 319-2 at 40-41; 445-1 at 5. In April, Bard
14 learned of a second migration death associated with the filter. Doc. 414 at 4. Bard’s
15 assistant general counsel, Donna Passero, began to receive letters demanding
16 compensation from lawyers and patients who had experienced such adverse events. Doc.
17 319-2 at 25. In June, Passero responded to a letter that raised possible product liability
18 and medical malpractice claims. Doc. 319-2 at 28-29. In July, Bard notified its
19 insurance carrier of potential claims involving the Recovery Filter. Docs. 319 at 27-29;
20 319-2 at 29, 91. These potential claims led the Law Department to retain Dr. Lehmann to
21 conduct a broad risk assessment of the Recovery Filter. Doc. 319-2 at 38-39.

22 The Law Department retained Dr. Lehmann as a consultant in November 2004.
23 *Id.* at 2-3, ¶ 6, 93. On November 15, 2004, Dr. Lehmann and Judith Reinsdorf, Bard’s
24 General Counsel, executed a consulting agreement. Docs. 319-2 at 3, ¶ 8, 36, 94; 335 at
25 3-9. The agreement said that Dr. Lehmann’s services would be provided in “anticipation
26 of litigation.” Doc. 335 at 3, ¶ 1. Dr. Lehmann’s work for the Law Department was
27 unlike the work he had performed as acting medical director; he was retained to provide a
28 broad assessment of the risks associated with Bard’s Recovery Filter to assist the Law

1 Department in advising Bard on the extent of its legal exposure. Doc. 319-2 at 31-32, 96.
2 Dr. Lehmann reviewed relevant medical literature, examined the Recovery Filter
3 complaints Bard had received up to that point, analyzed data from the FDA's adverse
4 event reporting database (known as "MAUDE"), reviewed bench testing data for the
5 Recovery Filter and its competitors, and prepared a written report of his findings.
6 Docs. 319-2 at 97-98; 335 at 9. During this investigation, and at Passero's direction, Dr.
7 Lehmann communicated with "a small and limited number of Bard employees for the
8 purpose of obtaining and providing information in order to" complete his work.
9 Doc. 319-2 at 3, ¶ 10.

10 On December 15, 2004, Dr. Lehmann submitted his report ("Report") to Passero.
11 Docs. 319-2 at 3, ¶ 11, 98, 104-05; 335 at 3, ¶ 2, 11. The Report contained a header on
12 every page stating that it was "[p]rivileged and confidential," "[a]ttorney work product,"
13 and "[p]ursuant to contract." *See, e.g.*, Doc. 335 at 13. Passero distributed the Report to
14 five Bard employees, including Bard's general counsel. Doc. 319-2 at 3, ¶ 11, 36, 83.
15 Eventually, the Report was distributed to approximately 12 Bard employees.¹ *See id.* at
16 140-41, ¶¶ 3-4. Passero testified that she distributed the Report internally because it
17 recommended that Bard immediately and urgently address several issues. *Id.* at 37; *see*
18 *also id.* at 3, ¶ 11. Passero instructed the recipients "that the report and associated
19 materials were confidential and that any further distribution of the report should be
20 limited to only those employees or consultants who need the report to perform their
21 proper job functions." *Id.* at 3, ¶ 11, 83. There is no evidence that the Report was
22 distributed to anyone other than Bard employees.

23 **II. Legal Standard.**

24 "A party or any person from whom discovery is sought may move for a protective
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26 ¹ The record does not clearly establish how the remaining Bard employees
27 received the Report. Presumably, the individuals to whom Passero gave the Report
28 passed it along to others. *See* Doc. 319-2 at 3, ¶ 11. The record is similarly unclear as to
the identities of the 12 Bard employees who received the Report, although Bard's
briefing suggests that it is the 12 individuals named in Robert Carr's February 3, 2014
affidavit. *See* Doc. 306 at 9, 16; *see also* Doc. 319-2 at 140-41, ¶¶ 3-4.

1 order in the court where the action is pending.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c)(1). Rule 26(c)
2 authorizes a district court to grant a protective order where “good cause” is shown. *See*
3 *San Jose Mercury News, Inc. v. U.S. Dist. Ct.*, 187 F.3d 1096, 1103 (9th Cir. 1999).
4 “[T]he party seeking protection bears the burden of showing specific prejudice or harm
5 will result if no protective order is granted.” *Phillips v. G.M. Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206,
6 1210-11 (9th Cir. 2002) (quotation marks and citations omitted).

7 **III. Analysis.**

8 Bard argues that (1) the Report is protected from disclosure by the work product
9 doctrine; (2) Plaintiffs have not shown a substantial need for the Report, or that they will
10 experience an undue hardship in obtaining substantially equivalent information; and
11 (3) Bard did not waive the Report’s work-product protection. The Court will explain
12 why it agrees with these three assertions.

13 **A. The Report is protected work product.**

14 “Ordinarily, a party may not discover documents and tangible things that are
15 prepared in anticipation of litigation or for trial by or for another party or its
16 representative (including the other party’s attorney, *consultant*, surety, indemnitor,
17 insurer, or *agent*).” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A) (emphasis added). Courts in the Ninth
18 Circuit use the “because of” test to determine whether dual purpose documents were
19 prepared in anticipation of litigation:

20 In circumstances where a document serves a dual purpose, that is, where it
21 was not prepared exclusively for litigation, then the “because of” test is
22 used. Dual purpose documents are deemed prepared because of litigation if
23 in light of the nature of the document and the factual situation in the
24 particular case, the document can be fairly said to have been prepared or
25 obtained because of the prospect of litigation. In applying the “because of”
26 standard, courts must consider the totality of the circumstances and
determine whether the document was created because of anticipated
litigation, and would not have been created in substantially similar form but
for the prospect of litigation.

27 *United States v. Richey*, 632 F.3d 559, 567-68 (9th Cir. 2011) (quotation marks and
28 citations omitted).

1 Before the start of this MDL, Passero and Lehmann testified in an evidentiary
2 hearing in the *Alexander* case cited above. See Doc. 319-2 at 7-137. Attorneys who are
3 part of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in this MDL participated in the hearing and
4 cross-examined Passero and Lehmann. *Id.* at 9. Bard relies on affidavits, documentary
5 evidence, and testimony from the *Alexander* hearing to show that the Report was created
6 because of anticipated litigation. See Doc. 306 at 9-13.

7 Documents confirm that, beginning in early 2004, Bard and its legal counsel began
8 receiving notices that the Recovery Filter was associated with adverse events, including
9 several deaths. See Docs. 319 at 14-25 (letters and emails involving lawyers and patients
10 who had experienced adverse events associated with the Recovery Filter); *id.* at 31-80
11 (Bard complaint files for patients who had experienced adverse events associated with the
12 Recovery Filter); 319-1 at 1-230 (same). Bard received several threats of litigation.
13 Doc. 319 at 14-16 (February 3, 2004); *id.* at 20-21 (June 7, 2004); *id.* at 23 (June 15,
14 2004). In July 2004, Bard notified its insurance carrier of potential claims relating to the
15 Recovery Filter. Docs. 319 at 27-29; 319-2 at 29, 91. Plaintiffs do not dispute this
16 documentation.

17 Ms. Passero stated in an affidavit and during her testimony in *Alexander* that these
18 events caused the Law Department to retain Dr. Lehmann as a consultant to conduct a
19 broad risk assessment. Doc. 319-2 at 2 (¶¶ 6-7), 32. Dr. Lehmann confirmed this fact in
20 his testimony. *Id.* at 93-95.

21 The consulting agreement was executed by Dr. Lehmann and Bard's general
22 counsel, and provided that Dr. Lehmann would report directly to, and take directions
23 from, attorney Passero and the Law Department. Docs. 319-2 at 3, ¶ 9, 36, 94; 335 at 3-
24 9. The agreement stated that Dr. Lehmann's services were being retained in "anticipation
25 of litigation." Doc. 335 at 3, ¶ 1. Dr. Lehmann's Report was submitted directly to
26 Passero. Docs. 319-2 at 3, ¶ 11, 98, 104-05; 335 at 3, ¶ 2, 11. The Report contained a
27 header stating that it was "[p]rivileged and confidential," "[a]ttorney work product," and
28 "[p]ursuant to contract." See, e.g., Doc. 335 at 13.

1 Plaintiffs argue that the Report was prepared in the ordinary course of business.
2 *See* Doc. 379 at 12-19. They assert that Bard’s regular business includes remedial actions
3 and “significant obligations to investigate and to report product failures, including
4 conducting comparisons to competitor products.” *Id.* at 13. Plaintiffs point to Bard’s
5 Regulatory Affairs Manual (Doc. 445-2 at 11-26, 35-53) and various statutes and
6 administrative regulations as proof of these obligations. *See* Doc. 379 at 5-6, 13-14.
7 Plaintiffs contend that Bard’s Regulatory Affairs Manual establishes that Dr. Lehmann
8 was a member of Bard’s Product Assessment Team when he was serving as acting
9 medical director. *Id.* at 13-14. Even if this is true, Plaintiffs fail to link this fact to Dr.
10 Lehmann’s work in preparing the Report – work that was conducted months later and in
11 his capacity as a consultant for the Law Department.

12 It is true that the statutes and regulations impose on Bard certain obligations: to
13 maintain complaint and adverse event files (*see* 21 C.F.R. §§ 820.198, 803.1), investigate
14 and report to the FDA certain product failures (*see* 21 C.F.R. § 820.198), undertake
15 certain duties with respect to misbranded or adulterated devices (*see* 21 U.S.C. §§ 321,
16 331, 351, 352, 360), and perform quality audits (*see* 21 C.F.R. § 820.22). But these laws
17 do not impose an obligation to conduct the extensive and comparative statistical and
18 bench testing data analyses undertaken by Dr. Lehmann and memorialized in the Report.
19 Both Passero and Dr. Lehmann testified that the Report was an unusual undertaking,
20 prepared in anticipation of litigation and unrelated to Bard’s regulatory obligations. *See*
21 Doc. 319-2 at 33-34, 38, 93-98, 108-10, 113-17. Even considering and crediting
22 Plaintiffs’ evidence, the Court finds these assertions largely un rebutted. The Report was
23 a more extensive and detailed analysis than Bard normally created. The evidence does
24 not support Plaintiffs’ assertion that the Report was prepared in the ordinary course of
25 Bard’s business. It supports a finding that the Report “would not have been created in
26 substantially similar form but for the prospect of litigation,” *Richey*, 632 F.3d at 568,
27 which satisfies the Ninth Circuit’s work product test.²

28 ² At oral argument, the Court asked Plaintiffs to cite the specific statute or

1 Plaintiffs also argue that the Report was used for Bard's business purposes, and
2 that there is no evidence it was used for litigation purposes. Doc. 379 at 14-15. Plaintiffs
3 identify three internal Bard documents that contain information from the Report: the
4 December 12, 2004 HHE, the January 4, 2005 RAP, and a December 9, 2004 draft of the
5 January RAP. *Id.* at 14. A review of these documents confirms that the Report was used
6 in creating them. Bard also admitted this fact during oral argument and in its reply brief.
7 Doc. 412 at 7. But use of the Report to create internal HHEs and RAPs does not deprive
8 the Report of work product protection. To the contrary, the "because of" test is directed
9 at documents that serve both litigation and business purposes. *See Richey*, 632 F.3d at
10 567-68 ("In circumstances where a document serves a dual purpose, that is, where it was
11 not prepared exclusively for litigation, then the 'because of' test is used."). The Court
12 must determine whether "the document was created because of anticipated litigation, and
13 would not have been created in substantially similar form but for the prospect of
14 litigation." *Id.* at 568. As discussed in this order, the evidence supports such a finding.

15 Plaintiffs also cite no authority for their argument that Bard must show the Report
16 was actually used in litigation. The test is whether the Report was "*prepared in*

17
18 regulation that they claim required Bard to produce the Report. Plaintiffs cited 21 C.F.R.
19 § 820.22. The Court has closely reviewed this regulation, as well as related regulations,
20 and concludes that § 820.22 did not require Bard to create the Report. First, § 820.22
21 focuses on quality systems. *Id.* ("Each manufacturer shall *establish procedures for*
22 *quality audits* and conduct such audits to assure that the *quality system is in compliance*
23 *with the established quality system requirements* and to *determine the effectiveness of the*
24 *quality system.*") (emphasis added). "Quality system" is defined as "the organizational
25 structure, responsibilities, procedures, processes, and resources for implementing quality
26 management." *Id.* § 820.3(v). This suggests that the quality audits mentioned in § 820.22
27 are focused on ensuring that manufacturers have proper quality assurance procedures in
28 place and are, in fact, following those procedures. Second, the FDA's comments in the
preamble to the regulation confirm that this is the purpose of § 820.22. *See* 61 Fed. Reg.
52602, 52614 (Oct. 7, 1996) ("Quality audit[s] are for an internal audit and review of the
quality system to verify compliance with the quality system regulation. The review and
evaluations under § 820.22 are very focused. During the internal quality audit, the
manufacturer should review all procedures to ensure adequacy and compliance with the
regulation, and determine whether the procedures are being effectively implemented at all
times."). Third, the regulatory structure indicates that § 820.22 is focused on procedures
and processes, rather than on a particular product's safety. The regulation is located in
Subpart B "Quality System Requirements," and not in other subparts that more directly
address the subject matter of the Report, such as Subpart G "Production and Process
Controls," Subpart I "Nonconforming Product," or Subpart J "Corrective and
Preventative Action."

1 anticipation of litigation,” not whether it was used in litigation. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)
2 (emphasis added). Requiring parties to show that a document was used in litigation
3 would likely invade both the work product protection and the attorney-client privilege.

4 Plaintiffs similarly argue that the Report does not mention litigation, legal
5 analysis, or litigation strategy. But work product protection is not limited to legal
6 analysis or litigation strategy – it includes “documents and tangible things that are
7 prepared in anticipation of litigation . . . for another party or its representative,” including
8 by its “consultant” or “agent.” *Id.*; see *Richey*, 632 F.3d at 567 (“The work-product
9 doctrine covers documents or the compilation of materials prepared by agents of the
10 attorney in preparation for litigation.”). Thus, a purely technical analysis of a Bard filter
11 prepared by one of Plaintiffs’ consulting experts in anticipation of litigation would be
12 work product regardless of whether it included litigation strategy or legal analysis.
13 Indeed, when work product must be disclosed under Rule 26 for substantial need, courts
14 are directed to withhold “mental impressions, conclusions, opinions, or legal theories of a
15 party’s attorney or other representative concerning the litigation,” making clear that work
16 product includes more than this kind of legal analysis. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(B).

17 Plaintiffs contend that the Report is not work product because litigation was not
18 “imminent.” Doc. 379 at 16-17. But Plaintiffs cite no authority for the proposition that
19 work product protection applies only when litigation is imminent. The test is whether
20 litigation was reasonably anticipated, and the adverse events and litigation threats of 2004
21 clearly satisfied this requirement.

22 Plaintiffs also argue that Bard did not reasonably anticipate litigation when it
23 retained Dr. Lehmann because Bard had not yet implemented a litigation hold on
24 documents and electronically stored information. *Id.* at 16. But even if Bard failed to
25 implement a timely litigation hold as Plaintiffs contend – an issue the Court does not
26 decide at this time – that fact would not prove that litigation was not reasonably
27 anticipated. Parties can fail to comply with preservation obligations in the face of
28 reasonably anticipated litigation. Plaintiffs do not dispute that deaths and injuries from

1 the Recovery Filter had been reported in 2004, that Bard had received demands for
2 compensation, or that Bard had put its insurance carrier on notice of possible claims. The
3 totality of the circumstances clearly shows that litigation was reasonably anticipated.

4 Plaintiffs argue that the Report was prepared in the ordinary course of business
5 because “Dr. Lehmann’s work was well underway long before he was given a contract
6 with the Law Department.” Doc. 379 at 17. While there is no dispute that Dr. Lehmann
7 worked as Bard’s acting medical director in late 2003 and early 2004, Dr. Lehmann
8 testified in the *Alexander* hearing that this role terminated on the hiring of Dr. Ciavarella
9 in May 2004 and that, other than occasional communications with Dr. Ciavarella, he
10 performed no work for Bard until November 2004. Doc. 319-2 at 93-98. Dr. Lehmann
11 also testified that the work he performed as acting medical director was substantially
12 different from the work done to produce the Report. *Id.* Plaintiffs present no direct
13 evidence to contradict this testimony. Plaintiffs instead identify several documents as
14 indirect evidence that Dr. Lehmann’s work as acting medical director was related to his
15 Law Department work that culminated in the Report: the March 10, 2004 HHE (Doc.
16 445-1 at 4-15); an April 15, 2004 email (Doc. 443-1 at 5-8); and the April 27, 2004 HHE
17 (Doc. 414 at 3-15).

18 Dr. Lehmann’s testimony directly addressed the differences between these HHEs
19 and the Report. Dr. Lehmann testified that: HHEs were prepared pursuant to Bard’s
20 regulatory obligations, while the Report was not; the purpose of HHEs was to “guide
21 potential market actions or corrections,” while the purpose of the Report was to provide
22 guidance on Bard’s risk and overall exposure from adverse events associated with the
23 Recovery Filter; HHEs considered a product’s risks and benefits, while the Report
24 considered only the Recovery Filter’s risks; HHEs each focused on a single adverse event
25 involving migration, while the Report dealt with all adverse events associated with the
26 Recovery Filter; and the Report involved detailed statistical analysis personally
27 performed by Dr. Lehmann, while HHEs did not. *See* Doc. 319-2 at 96-98. The Court’s
28 close review of the HHEs and the Report confirms these distinctions.

1 The four-page HHE dated March 10, 2004 was prepared by Dr. Lehmann after the
2 February 2004 death of a patient due to the migration of a massive blood clot and a
3 Recovery Filter to the patient's heart.³ Doc. 445-1 at 5. The HHE focused on this single
4 adverse event and discussed the placement of the filter, the patient's risk factors, the
5 autopsy report, and other medical evidence. *Id.* at 5-6. The HHE included a short review
6 of other Recovery Filter migration complaints. *Id.* at 6. The HHE then addressed the
7 following subjects: human exposure to the problem, general consequences, population
8 exposed to risk, mitigating or predisposing factors, nature and seriousness of the risk,
9 likelihood of occurrence, likelihood of harm, whether the product is essential to health,
10 whether there are available alternatives, whether the problem must be corrected
11 surgically, whether the problem is expected and within an acceptable statistical range,
12 whether the problem can be field corrected, whether the problem is obvious to the user,
13 whether the product can continue to be used with proper warnings, and whether the
14 device is used only by specially-trained health care professionals. *See id.* at 6-8. The
15 HHE concluded that "[t]here have been 3 migrations of the Recovery VC Filter in which
16 the device ended up in or near the heart, with one fatality, in an estimated 6,402 sales
17 through March 2, 2004, for a rate of 0.05%." *Id.* This is the only statistical calculation in
18 the HHE, and includes a warning that comparative assessments using data from "the
19 MAUDE database do not yield reliable quantitative estimates." *Id.* With respect to
20 whether the problem is expected and within an acceptable statistical range, the HHE
21 stated that "[e]stimates based on MAUDE and sales data suggest that there is no
22 significant difference in the rates of these complications between devices, including the
23 Recovery" Filter. *Id.* at 8.

24 The Report has a broader focus. It contains statistical analyses relating to selected
25 types of adverse events associated with the Recovery Filter and other filters on the
26 market, including rates of reported filter fractures, caval perforation, filter movement,
27 filter embolization, and filter embolization deaths. Doc. 335 at 13. Using MAUDE data,

28 ³ The April 27, 2004 HHE is similar to the March HHE in all relevant respects.

1 actual sales data for the Recovery Filter, and estimated sales data for other filters, the
2 Report calculates and compares adverse event reporting rates for the Recovery Filter and
3 seven other types of filters. *Id.* at 19-20. The Report then uses the reporting rates to
4 calculate relative risks for each of the eight filters for different types of adverse events.
5 *Id.* at 21-27. The Report also reviews Bard’s bench testing data that was used to
6 determine migration resistance for each of the eight filters, and compares the bench data
7 to the frequency of adverse events reported in the MAUDE data base. *Id.* at 31-33. The
8 Report concludes that “[t]his data and analysis provides two significant signals (MAUDE
9 rates and bench test data) that further investigation of the Recovery VCF filter
10 performance in relation to migration and fracture is urgently warranted.” *Id.* at 16. This
11 is a different focus than the HHEs. True, there are some similarities between the HHEs
12 and the Report, but the documents clearly serve different purposes and their substantial
13 differences corroborate Dr. Lehmann’s testimony that the Report was a different
14 undertaking than the work he did as acting medical director.

15 In the April 15, 2004 email relied on by Plaintiffs, Dr. Lehmann stated that
16 “[c]omparison with other filters is problematic in many ways, and we should avoid /
17 downplay this as much as possible.” Doc. 443-1 at 5. Plaintiffs argue that this statement
18 shows that Dr. Lehmann performed the same work as acting medical director that he did
19 in preparing the Report. But the fact that Dr. Lehmann – or others within Bard – did
20 some comparisons with other filters while he was acting as Bard’s medical director does
21 not prove that the detailed statistical analysis and evaluation of bench-testing results
22 contained in the Report were done before his contract with the Law Department or for
23 another reason. Nor have Plaintiffs cited any authority for the proposition that work
24 product is not entitled to protection if it is similar in some way to work the person has
25 done before. Rather, the test is whether the Report “would not have been created in
26 substantially similar form but for the prospect of litigation.” *Richey*, 632 F.3d at 568.
27 After examining the HHEs and the April 2004 email, and comparing them with the
28 Report, the Court finds that they do not undercut the testimony of Dr. Lehmann that the

1 Report was prepared at the behest of the Law Department and would not have been
2 created in substantially similar form otherwise.

3 Finally, Plaintiffs cite language from the December 2004 draft RAP which states
4 that Dr. Lehmann “was commissioned by *Corporate Senior Management* to provide an
5 independent study of the risk/benefit of the [Recovery Filter] in bariatric patients.”
6 Doc. 379 at 9 (emphasis added by Plaintiffs). Plaintiffs argue that this proves Dr.
7 Lehmann was hired by the business, not by the legal department, to prepare the Report.
8 But Dr. Lehmann’s consulting contract was signed by Judith Reinsdorf, Bard’s Vice
9 President, General Counsel, and Secretary. Doc. 335 at 8. She clearly qualified as
10 “Corporate Senior Management,” as stated in the draft RAP. She also was Bard’s lead
11 in-house lawyer. The Court cannot conclude that the statement in the draft RAP is
12 somehow inconsistent with the fact that the Report was prepared at the request of the
13 Law Department and in anticipation of litigation.⁴

14 In summary, the Court finds that the clear threat of litigation in 2004, Dr.
15 Lehmann’s retention by the Law Department in November of that year, the contract he
16 signed with Bard’s general counsel, the scope of work to be performed under the contract,
17 and the clear labeling of the Report as work product all support a finding that the Report
18 was prepared because of anticipated litigation. Dr. Lehmann testified that his work in
19 late 2003 and early 2004 as acting medical director was different than the work he did
20 under the contract, and the documents cited by Plaintiffs do not undercut that testimony.
21 To be sure, there are some general similarities between the HHEs and the Report, and the
22 Report was used for some business purposes, but these facts do not contradict the clear
23 evidence that the Report “would not have been created in substantially similar form but
24 for the prospect of litigation.” *Richey*, 632 F.3d at 568. The Court finds no evidence to
25 support Plaintiffs’ suggestion that the work product label for the Report was some kind of

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27 ⁴ What is more, this language did not appear in the January 4, 2005 final version of
28 the RAP. *See* Doc. 306-1 at 43-44 (“As part of the ongoing evaluation of [the Recovery
Filter], Bard requested an independent study of the risks and benefits of the [Recovery
Filter], with an emphasis on its use in bariatric surgery and trauma patients.”).

1 grand ruse, implemented to hide unfavorable information. Based on the totality of the
2 circumstances, the Court concludes that the Report was prepared “because of” anticipated
3 litigation and is protected by the work-product doctrine. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A);
4 *Richey*, 632 F.3d at 567-68.

5 **B. Plaintiffs have not shown substantial need or undue hardship.**

6 Work product protection is not absolute. A protected but otherwise discoverable
7 document may be obtained in discovery if “the party shows that it has substantial need
8 for the materials to prepare its case and cannot, without undue hardship, obtain their
9 substantial equivalent by other means.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A). The Advisory
10 Committee has made clear that a “special showing” is required. *See Bickler v. Senior*
11 *Lifestyle Corp.*, 266 F.R.D. 379, 384 (D. Ariz. 2010) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)
12 advisory committee’s note (1970)).

13 Bard argues that Plaintiffs have full access to all of the data analyzed in Dr.
14 Lehmann’s Report and that their experts can – and already have in some of the
15 consolidated cases – perform the same analysis. Plaintiffs do not disagree, but instead
16 attempt to show their substantial need by arguing this:

17 Yes, Plaintiffs can analyze the same data Dr. Lehmann did. Plaintiffs in
18 other cases have even hired experts to do the same work. But Plaintiffs
19 should not be required to present the evidence in this cumbersome fashion
20 and incur the expense and delay associated with hiring an independent
21 expert simply to show what Bard knew as of December 2004 and
22 communicated to several high-ranking officials in its corporation. The
23 Report does all of that. Why waste days of trial (in every MDL case
24 remanded for trial) with the concomitant strain on judicial and party
25 resources to employ, prepare, present, and depose experts, along with the
26 inevitable *Daubert* hearing exercise, when all that same information is in
27 one report provided to several Bard employees primarily used to comply
28 with Bard’s reporting requirements to the FDA?

Doc. 379 at 28.

26 The Court finds this argument wholly unpersuasive. Plaintiffs essentially concede
27 that they can create the substantial equivalent of the Report through their own experts,
28 but argue – in this substantial and well-funded MDL proceeding – that they should not be

1 put to the time and expense of retaining their own experts. If this were a sufficient
2 “special showing” to overcome work product protection, *Bickler*, 266 F.R.D. at 384, the
3 protection would be lost in every case where the opposing side would have to expend
4 meaningful resources to obtain the substantial equivalent of the work product. This is not
5 the law. *See, e.g., Fletcher v. Union Pac. R.R. Co.*, 194 F.R.D. 666, 671 (S.D. Cal. 2000)
6 (citing 8 Charles Alan Wright & Arthur R. Miller, *Federal Practice and Procedure* §
7 2025, at 374, n.15 (3d ed. 2015)) (finding “mere[] expense or inconvenience” insufficient
8 to constitute undue hardship).

9 Plaintiffs asserted during oral argument that there is a fact they cannot prove
10 through their own experts: that Bard *knew* of Dr. Lehmann’s unfavorable conclusions.
11 But Plaintiffs’ briefing on this issue suggests otherwise: “Plaintiffs should not be
12 required to . . . incur the expense and delay associated with hiring an independent expert
13 simply to show what Bard *knew* as of December 2004.” Doc. 379 at 28 (emphasis
14 added). What is more, Plaintiffs’ briefing includes many cites to evidence they claim
15 shows that Bard knew about the problems arising from its filters, including a statement in
16 which Dr. Lehmann, in his role as acting medical director, allegedly was urging Bard to
17 downplay the problem. *See* Doc. 443-1 at 5 (“Bottom line: good filter, severe case, bad
18 outcome, deep regret. This is the simple story we should repeat again and again.
19 Comparison with other filters is problematic in many ways, and we should avoid /
20 downplay this as much as possible.”). Plaintiffs asserted in oral argument that Dr.
21 Lehmann’s report would make this point even more credibly, but the Court cannot
22 conclude that enhanced credibility satisfies the special showing required to overcome
23 work product protection. *See Baker v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 209 F.3d 1051, 1054 (8th Cir.
24 2000) (“A party also does not demonstrate substantial need when it merely seeks
25 corroborative evidence.”).

26 It is undisputed that Plaintiffs have access to the same data that Dr. Lehmann
27 relied on in creating the Report. Docs. 306 at 14; 379 at 28. Further, “Plaintiffs in other
28 cases have even hired experts to do the same work.” Doc. 379 at 28; *see* Doc. 319-2 at

1 143-64 (expert report of Dr. Michael Freeman). Plaintiffs have not made the showing of
2 substantial need or undue hardship required to overcome the Report's work product
3 protection.

4 **C. Bard did not waive the Report's work product protection.**

5 Plaintiffs argue that Bard waived any claim to work product protection by
6 (1) internal distribution of the report to 12 Bard employees, (2) disclosure of the report in
7 the *Phillips* trial in the District of Nevada, (3) attempting to use work product protection
8 as both a sword and a shield, and (4) using the Report in furtherance of a crime or fraud.
9 *See* Doc. 379 at 20-27. The Court will address each argument separately.

10 **1. Internal distribution of the Report.**

11 "Courts have recognized that work product protection may be lost when the
12 disclosure substantially increases the opportunity for potential adversaries to obtain the
13 information." *Bickler*, 266 F.R.D. at 384 (quotation marks and citation omitted). Bard
14 contends that its distribution of the Report to 12 internal employees did not substantially
15 increase the opportunity for Plaintiffs to obtain the Report. The Court agrees.

16 Passero distributed the Report to five people, including Bard's general counsel,
17 with instructions that it was confidential and distribution "should be limited." Doc. 319-2
18 at 3, ¶ 11, 36-37. Passero testified that she distributed the report internally because the
19 Report recommended that Bard promptly take certain steps and she thought it important
20 to give it "to people who would know what to do with that information." *Id.* at 37.
21 Eventually, the Report was distributed to a total of 12 Bard employees. *See* Doc. 319-2
22 at 140-41, ¶¶ 3-4.

23 Plaintiffs argue that the Report was circulated without restrictions. They cite
24 deposition testimony of Dr. Ciavarella that "he received the Report 'without restriction'
25 as to its use," and that he was "*never instructed that the Report was secret or prepared in*
26 *anticipation of litigation.*" Doc. 379 at 10 (emphasis by Plaintiffs). Plaintiffs' Exhibit 5
27 contains several pages of Dr. Ciavarella's deposition transcript, but none of them contains
28 this testimony. *See* Doc. 445-2 at 1-9. The Court therefore cannot consider Ciavarella's

1 statement in context. But even if it was made as quoted by Plaintiffs and is accepted as
2 true, the Court cannot conclude that one high-level employee's receipt of the Report
3 without Passero's restrictions substantially increased the risk that the Report would be
4 distributed outside of Bard. Every page of the Report was labeled "[p]rivileged and
5 confidential" and "[a]ttorney work product." Doc. 335 at 13-46. In addition, Bard's
6 internal policies state that communications between Bard's legal counsel and its
7 employees are to be kept confidential, as are documents created in anticipation of
8 litigation. Doc. 319-2 at 2, ¶ 5.

9 The Court concludes that Bard's internal distribution of the Report to 12
10 employees did not substantially increase the opportunity for Plaintiffs or others outside of
11 Bard to obtain the Report. *Bickler*, 266 F.R.D. at 384.

12 **2. Disclosures of the Report in the *Phillips* trial.**

13 Courts have been willing to preserve a document's work product protection where
14 an earlier disclosure of the document was compelled. *Bickler*, 266 F.R.D. at 384 (citation
15 omitted); *see also Shields v. Sturm, Ruger & Co.*, 864 F.2d 379, 382 (5th Cir. 1989)
16 ("When a party is compelled to disclose privileged work product and does so only after
17 objecting and taking other reasonable steps to protect the privilege, one court's disregard
18 of the privileged character of the material does not waive the privilege before another
19 court."). In *Phillips v. Bard*, No. 3:12-CV-344-RCJ-WGC (D. Nev. Feb. 2, 2015), the
20 Report was admitted into evidence during trial over Bard's work product objection. *See*
21 Doc. 306-1 at 150-55; 159-60. Bard argues that this compelled disclosure did not amount
22 to waiver. The Court agrees.

23 Bard took reasonable steps to protect the Report's confidential nature during the
24 *Phillips* trial. Bard objected to the Report's use at trial, argued against its admission
25 during a hearing in the middle of trial, and objected again when the Report was actually
26 introduced in evidence. *See* Doc. 306-1 at 150-55, 159-60. The Court is not persuaded
27 by Plaintiffs' argument that "Bard failed to timely request that [the] Report (and other
28 trial exhibits) be sealed." Doc. 379 at 27. Bard actively opposed the use of the Report

1 during trial and moved to seal the Report at the conclusion of the trial. Doc. 412 at 15.
2 Bard's compelled disclosure was not a waiver of its work product protection. *Bickler*,
3 266 F.R.D. at 384; *Shields*, 864 F.2d at 382.

4 **3. Sword and shield argument.**

5 The attorney-client privilege and work product protection may not be used as both
6 a sword and a shield. "Where a party raises a claim which in fairness requires disclosure
7 of the protected communication, the privilege may be implicitly waived." *Columbia*
8 *Pictures Television, Inc. v. Krypton Broad. of Birmingham, Inc.*, 259 F.3d 1186, 1196
9 (9th Cir. 2001) (quotation marks and citations omitted).

10 Plaintiffs assert that Bard has selectively quoted the Report in several documents,
11 including the December 17, 2004 HHE (Doc. 306-1 at 52-56) and the January 4, 2005
12 RAP (*id.* at 39-50). Both the HHE and the RAP do repeat the Report's findings that the
13 Recovery Filter was experiencing significantly higher reporting rates of adverse events
14 than comparable filters. *See id.* at 44, 53. The documents also convey some of the
15 Report's limitations, such as the lack of reliable data and the need to conduct follow-up
16 research. *See id.* But Plaintiffs do not show how this use of the Report constitutes a
17 sword. The sword-shield rulings stand for basic fairness – a party should not be allowed
18 to use work product affirmatively to gain some advantage in litigation, and at the same
19 time withhold the work product from scrutiny by asserting the work product protection.
20 The use of data and conclusions from the Report in internal Bard documents, such as the
21 RAPs and the HHEs, does not amount to such affirmative use, and fairness therefore does
22 not demand disclosure of the full document.

23 Plaintiffs also point to representations that Bard made to "the FDA and the
24 medical community that the Recovery [Filter] failed at the same rate as competition
25 models while knowing from the Report that this was not true." Doc. 379 at 21-22 (citing
26 Doc. 443-1 at 5-8). For support, Plaintiffs cite an April 15, 2004 email from Dr.
27 Lehmann. Doc. 443-1 at 5-8. But this email does not support Plaintiffs' position. At the
28 time, Dr. Lehmann could not have known from the Report that the Recovery Filter was

1 failing at higher rates than its competitors because the Report had not been created – it
2 was not issued for another eight months. What is more, making a public statement
3 contrary to what is contained in work product does not constitute use of the work product
4 as a sword. The work product is not used at all in such a communication. The work
5 product may contradict the public statement, but the sword-shield basis for waiver does
6 not turn on impeachment value; it turns on the unfairness of using a document to make an
7 affirmative assertion for one’s advantage while simultaneously withholding the document
8 from scrutiny. Dr. Lehmann’s email did not do that.

9 **4. Crime-fraud exception.**

10 The attorney-client privilege and work product protection do not apply to
11 communications made or work done in furtherance of a crime or fraud. *In re Grand Jury*
12 *Proceedings*, 87 F.3d 377, 381 (9th Cir. 1996); *United States v. Zolin*, 491 U.S. 554, 562-
13 63 (1989); *In re Richard Roe, Inc.*, 68 F.3d 38, 40 n.2 (2d Cir. 1995) (work product). A
14 party that invokes the crime-fraud exception must show that: (1) “the client was engaged
15 in or planning a criminal or fraudulent scheme when it sought the advice of counsel to
16 further the scheme,” and (2) the work product was sufficiently related to and was made in
17 furtherance of the intended, or present, continuing illegality. *In re Napster, Inc.*
18 *Copyright Litig.*, 479 F.3d 1078, 1090 (9th Cir. 2007) (quotation marks and citations
19 omitted), *abrogated on other grounds by Mohawk Indus., Inc. v. Carpenter*, 558 U.S. 100
20 (2009).

21 Plaintiffs argue that the crime-fraud exception can be established merely by
22 showing “reasonable cause” to believe that the legal services were used to promote an
23 unlawful scheme. Doc. 379 at 22. But the case law cited by Plaintiffs concerns grand
24 jury proceedings, and the Ninth Circuit has noted that there is reason to apply a lower
25 standard in such proceedings – which require speed and simplicity – than in civil cases.
26 *In re Napster*, 479 F.3d at 1094. The Ninth Circuit has held that a party in a civil case
27 must establish the crime-fraud exception by a preponderance of the evidence when
28 challenging attorney-client communications. *Id.* at 1094-95 (“For several reasons, we

1 conclude that in a civil case the burden of proof that must be carried by a party seeking
2 outright disclosure of attorney-client communications under the crime-fraud exception
3 should be preponderance of the evidence.”). Plaintiffs do not address this holding, nor do
4 they provide reason for the Court to conclude that a different standard should apply to
5 work product protection. The Court concludes that the preponderance of the evidence
6 standard should be applied to this work product challenge.⁵

7 In an opening footnote on this issue, Plaintiffs cite a recall of another Bard product
8 in 1990, criminal charges brought in 1993 against Bard related to other products, two
9 MDL proceedings against Bard, and Bard’s settlement of a qui tam lawsuit. Doc. 379 at
10 23-24 n.15. Plaintiffs provide no evidence linking these events to this case. Moreover,
11 the crime-fraud exception does not apply to past conduct. *Zolin*, 491 U.S. at 562-63.

12 Plaintiffs assert that Bard committed a “cover up of adverse testing, injuries, and
13 deaths associated with its filters,” which they contend is both fraudulent and criminal.
14 Doc. 379 at 24. Plaintiffs produce the following evidence: Bard learned of the first
15 reported death associated with the Recovery Filter in February 2004; in response, Bard
16 formed a Crisis Communication Team; in April 2004, a Bard executive emailed Dr.
17 Lehmann expressing concern about the Recovery Filter’s mortality rate; in July 2004,
18 Bard issued an HHE that showed the Recovery Filter had a failure rate 28 times higher
19 than other filters; the Report showed high rates of adverse events associated with the
20 Recovery Filter; and witnesses have testified about the Recovery Filter’s high rate of
21 adverse events. *Id.* at 24-25. Plaintiffs assert that Bard committed fraud by not reporting
22 this information to the FDA, doctors, and patients, and by failing to issue a product recall.

23 Bard presents contrary evidence and arguments. Doc. 412 at 13. Bard notes that

24
25 ⁵ The Court finds that the four reasons given by the Ninth Circuit for adopting the
26 preponderance standard for challenges to attorney-client communications apply as well to
27 work product: (1) the importance of the work product protection has been recognized
28 since *Hickman v. Taylor*, 329 U.S. 495 (1947); (2) the *prima facie* standard is not
inconsistent with a preponderance standard; (3) Federal Rule of Evidence 104(a) applies
to admissibility questions regarding work product and calls for a preponderance standard;
and (4) the problem of limited access to proof is mitigated by the possibility of *in camera*
review as well as the substantial need exception to work product protection. See *In re*
Napster, 479 F.3d at 1095-96.

1 the two deaths, which led to creation of the Crisis Communications Team, were both
2 reported to the FDA. Doc. 319 at 32, 44. In addition, the adverse outcome rates set forth
3 in the Report were based on adverse events in the MAUDE database, which is maintained
4 by the FDA. Doc. 335 at 14. Bard thus asserts that FDA was fully aware of the deaths
5 and adverse events Plaintiffs rely on for their fraud allegations. Bard also cites evidence
6 of additional adverse-event-rate disclosures to the FDA in October 2004. Doc. 412 at 13.
7 Bard further cites evidence that migration rates for the Recovery Filter were well below
8 rates reported in medical literature for all IVC filters (Doc. 412 at 12), and that the overall
9 adverse event rates for the Recovery Filter were small (*id.*). Finally, Bard notes that the
10 FDA, which is aware of Recovery Filter adverse event rates, has never suggested that the
11 Recovery Filter be recalled. *Id.* at 13.

12 Given the parties' conflicting evidence and allegations, the Court cannot find by a
13 preponderance of the evidence that Bard engaged in fraudulent or criminal conduct.
14 Plaintiffs have failed to carry their burden of proving the crime-fraud exception.

15 **IV. Additional discovery or evidentiary hearing.**

16 If the Court is inclined to reject their arguments, Plaintiffs ask for additional
17 discovery and an evidentiary hearing. The Court declines this request for two reasons.

18 First, this issue has already been litigated in many state and federal courts that
19 preceded this MDL. Thirteen court decisions have found the Report to be protected work
20 product.⁶ Four have found the Report subject to discovery.⁷ The Court does not find
21

22 ⁶ *Alexander v. Bard*, No. 3:12-CV-05187-O-BK (N.D. Tex.); *Barkley v. Bard*, No.
23 CV2011-021250 (Ariz. Super. Ct.); *Carr v. Bard*, 297 F.R.D. 328 (N.D. Ohio 2014);
24 *Cason v. Bard*, No. 1:12-CV-01288-MHS (N.D. Ga.); *Ebert v. Bard*, No. 5:12-CV-
01253-LS, 2014 WL 1632155 (E.D. Pa. Apr. 24, 2014); *Jones v. Bard*, No. 3:13-CV-
00599-K (N.D. Tex.); *Kilver v. Bard*, No. 1:13-CV-01219-MMM-JEH (C.D. Ill.); *Leus v.*
25 *Bard*, No. 13-CV-00585-W-GAF (W.D. Mo.); *Peterson v. Bard*, No. 3:13-CV-00528-
JJR-RLB (M.D. La.); *Phillips v. Bard*, 290 F.R.D. 615 (D. Nev. 2013) (Cobb, M.J.);
26 *Rackliff v. Bard*, No. CV2011-021206 (Ariz. Super. Ct.); *Stesney v. Bard*, No. CV2012-
006103 (Ariz. Super. Ct.); *Towlson v. Bard*, No. CV2011-022334 (Ariz. Super Ct.).

27 ⁷ *Giordano v. Bard*, No. 37-2011-00069363-CU-PO-EC (Cal. Super. Ct.); *Payne*
28 *v. Bard*, No. 6:11-CV-01582-ORL-37GJK (M.D. Fla.); *Phillips v. Bard*, No. 3:12-CV-
00344-RCJ-WGC (D. Nev.) (Jones, J.); *Tillman v. Bard*, No. 3:13-CV-00222-J-34JBT
(M.D. Fla.).

1 these four decisions persuasive. In one, *Giordano v. Bard*, the California Superior Court
2 denied Bard's attempt to clawback the inadvertently produced Report without providing
3 any comment or analysis. Doc. 306 at 4-5 n.2. In two others – *Tillman v. Bard* and
4 *Payne v. Bard* – Magistrate Judge Toomey of the Middle District of Florida applied the
5 more rigorous “primary purpose” work product standard, which protects “documents
6 prepared principally or exclusively to assist in anticipated or ongoing litigation.” See
7 Doc. 443-1 at 110-132. The fourth case, *Phillips v. Bard*, actually involved two
8 conflicting decisions in Nevada Federal District Court. After briefing and a hearing,
9 Magistrate Judge Cobb held that the Report was protected work product. See Doc. 306-1
10 at 120-24, 133, 139-141. During trial, the plaintiff in *Phillips* sought to place the Report
11 in evidence, Bard objected, and District Judge Jones – without the benefit of briefing –
12 overruled the objection. *Id.* at 152-54. Thus, the four decisions which found the Report
13 discoverable either were made without explanation, applied a different legal standard
14 than the Ninth Circuit's “because of” test, or were made without briefing.

15 Moreover, the fact that the Report has been litigated more than 15 times in a wide
16 range of courts shows that it has been the subject to ample discovery and argument. And
17 as noted above, it was the subject of an evidentiary hearing in *Alexander v. Bard*, in the
18 Northern District of Texas. The plaintiff's lawyers in that hearing are members of the
19 Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in this MDL. See Doc. 319-2 at 7. Bard was represented
20 by the same lawyers who are representing it in this MDL. See *id.* at 8.

21 Given this prior litigation history, the Court cannot conclude that Plaintiffs have
22 been disadvantaged in any way by a lack of discovery or opportunity to develop their
23 arguments. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(C)(ii).

24 Second, the evidence the Court has considered in making this decision does not
25 suggest that an evidentiary hearing is needed. The testimony of Passero and Lehmann is
26 consistent with the documentary evidence. Plaintiffs have presented no evidence that
27 causes the Court to think this is a difficult evidentiary issue requiring in-person
28 credibility determinations. In short, this is not a close question. The Court therefore will

1 deny Plaintiffs' request for additional discovery and an evidentiary hearing. There are
2 more relevant and productive tasks to be completed in this MDL.

3 **V. Effect of this ruling on prior rulings in other cases.**

4 The parties agree that this Court's ruling should not affect any prior rulings on this
5 issue in other cases. *See* Docs. 306 at 21-23; 379 at 29-30. The Court agrees. This
6 ruling shall operate prospectively only, and shall apply in all MDL cases where the issue
7 has not previously been decided.

8 **VI. Conclusion.**

9 The Court finds that Bard will suffer specific prejudice or harm if Plaintiffs are
10 permitted to use a Report entitled to work product protection in discovery or at trial.
11 Bard has shown good cause for a protective order. *San Jose Mercury News*, 187 F.3d at
12 1103; *Phillips*, 307 F.3d at 1210-11.

13 **IT IS ORDERED:**

14 1. Defendants' motion for a protective order (Doc. 306) is **granted**. Dr. John
15 Lehmann's December 15, 2004, report is protected work product pursuant to Federal
16 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(3). Plaintiffs may not use or rely on the report in any
17 pending or future case in this MDL. This order shall not affect any transferor courts'
18 previous orders regarding the discoverability or use of Dr. Lehmann's report.

19 2. Defendants' unopposed motion to seal (Doc. 413) is **granted**. The Clerk is
20 directed to accept for filing under seal the document lodged on the Court's docket as
21 Doc. 414.

22 Dated this 11th day of February, 2016.

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David G. Campbell
United States District Judge

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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
8

9 **IN RE: BARD IVC FILTERS**
10 **PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

MDL No. 15-2641 PHX DGC

11 **This Order Relates to: All Actions**
12

13 This dispute concerns documents withheld from discovery under the attorney-
14 client privilege and the work-product doctrine by Defendants C.R. Bard, Inc. and Bard
15 Peripheral Vascular, Inc. (“Bard”). Plaintiffs challenge a substantial number of
16 documents on Bard’s privilege log. Plaintiffs sampled 307 documents on the log, which
17 represents five percent of the total. After meeting and conferring, the parties reached
18 agreement on all but 133 of the sampled documents. The resolution of this discovery
19 dispute will be used to guide the parties as they attempt to resolve the overall privilege
20 dispute in this multi-district litigation (“MDL”).

21 On March 25, 2016, Plaintiffs moved to compel production of the 133 disputed
22 documents. Doc. 1214. On March 31, 2016, the Court held a third case management
23 conference where the issue was discussed (Doc. 1246), and the Court provided additional
24 guidance in the ensuing case management order (Doc. 1319 at 5-6). The issues have now
25 been fully briefed (Docs. 1476, 1590, 1976, 2219, 2222), and the Court heard oral
26 arguments on June 21, 2016. The Court has also reviewed the representative sample
27 documents submitted by the parties. For the following reasons, the Court will grant in
28 part and deny in part Plaintiffs’ motion to compel.

1 **I. Choice of Law.**

2 The parties agree that the work-product doctrine is governed by federal law, but
3 disagree on which law should govern the attorney-client privilege. The parties' briefing
4 suggests four possibilities: (1) generally applicable common law, (2) Arizona law,
5 (3) New Jersey law, or (4) the law of each transferor district.

6 **A. Choice of Law Approaches.**

7 Federal Rule of Evidence 501 provides that "in a civil case, state law governs
8 privilege regarding a claim or defense for which state law supplies the rule of decision."
9 Fed. R. Evid. 501. "Rule 501, however, does not tell us which state law the forum state
10 should apply." *KL Grp. v. Case, Kay & Lynch*, 829 F.2d 909, 918 (9th Cir. 1987).
11 Commentators have suggested several methods of resolving this choice-of-law issue:
12 (1) use the privilege law of the state whose substantive law provides the rule of decision;
13 (2) apply the privilege law of the state in which the federal court sits; or (3) apply the
14 conflict-of-law doctrine of the state in which the federal court sits. *Id.* (citing 23 C.
15 Wright & K. Graham, Jr., *Federal Practice and Procedure* § 5435, at 865-69 (1980); 2
16 Weinstein's *Federal Evidence* § 501[02] (1986)).

17 The issue is complicated in the MDL context, where cases originate in many
18 different states. In *In re Yasmin and Yaz (Drospirenone) Marketing, Sales Practices and*
19 *Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 2100, 2011 WL 1375011, at *1 (S.D. Ill. Apr.
20 12, 2011), the court addressed a privilege challenge to 330 documents, a representative
21 sample of the 12,857 documents withheld as privileged. Consistent with Rule 501, the
22 Court found that "privilege matters that are relevant to an element of a claim or defense
23 for which state law supplies the rule of decision will be governed by state privilege law."
24 *Id.* at *7. The court recognized that "a federal court sitting in diversity applies the choice
25 of law rules emanating from the state in which it sits," and that, in the MDL context, "the
26 transferee court applies the choice of law rules of the state in which the transferor court
27 sits." *Id.* at *4. After surveying the choice of law principles of every state, the court
28 decided to apply the "most significant relationship" test found in Restatement (Second) of

1 Conflict of Laws § 139 (Am. Law Inst. 1971). The court found that in most states, “the
2 law of the state with the most significant relationship to the communication will govern
3 the existence and scope of attorney-client privilege.” *Id.* at *9.¹

4 Other cases have adopted different approaches. *See In re Vioxx Prods. Liab.*
5 *Litig.*, MDL No. 1657, 501 F. Supp. 2d 789, 791-92 (E.D. La. 2007) (applying generally-
6 known principles of the attorney-client privilege); *In re Baycol Prods. Litig.*, MDL No.
7 1431, 2003 WL 22023449, at *1-2 (D. Minn. Mar. 21, 2003) (applying the choice-of-law
8 rules of the state where the transferee court sits); *U.S. Surety Co. v. Stevens Family Ltd.*,
9 No. 11-C-7480, 2014 WL 902893, at *1 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 7, 2014) (applying the privilege
10 law of state that supplies the substantive rule of decision).

11 After considering these various approaches, the Court agrees with *Yasmin*, which
12 looked to the transferor states’ choice of law rules to determine which privilege law to
13 apply. This approach comports with the Supreme Court’s instruction that federal courts
14 should look to state conflict laws as well as substantive laws. *See Klaxon Co. v. Stentor*
15 *Elec. Mfg. Co., Inc.*, 313 U.S. 487, 496-97 (1941). The Court also agrees with *Yasmin*’s
16 selection of the Restatement’s most significant relationship test as best representative of
17 the choice of law rules applied by the various states. 2011 WL 1375011, at *7. The
18 parties also agree. Docs. 1476 at 6; 1590 at 2. Thus, the Court will use Restatement
19 § 139 to identify the privilege law to be applied in this case.

20 **B. Section 139 Analysis.**

21 Part 1 of § 139 provides: “Evidence that is not privileged under the local law of
22 the state which has the most significant relationship with the communication will be
23 admitted, even though it would be privileged under the local law of the forum, unless the
24 admission of such evidence would be contrary to the strong public policy of the forum.”

25
26 ¹ The court also concluded that cases filed directly in the MDL pursuant to its
27 direct-filing order should be treated “as if they were transferred from a judicial district
28 sitting in the state where the case originated.” 2011 WL 1375011, at *5-6. This
approach comports with the fourth case management order in this MDL. *See* Doc. 1485
at 3-4. Thus, directly-filed cases in this MDL will be treated as if they were transferred
from the forum where the case otherwise would have been filed – typically, the state
where the plaintiff resides or where the Bard filter was implanted.

1 Restatement (Second) of Conflict of Laws § 139 (Am. Law Inst. 1971). Part 2 provides:
2 “Evidence that is privileged under the local law of the state which has the most
3 significant relationship with the communication but which is not privileged under the
4 local law of the forum will be admitted unless there is some special reason why the forum
5 policy favoring admission should not be given effect.” *Id.* Thus, § 139 applies only
6 when the privilege law of the forum differs from that of the state with the most significant
7 relationship to the allegedly privileged communication.

8 To determine which state has the most significant relationship, Comment e to
9 § 139 provides this guidance:

10 The state which has the most significant relationship with a communication
11 will usually be the state where the communication took place, which, as
12 used in the rule of this Section, is the state where an oral interchange
13 between persons occurred, where a written statement was received or where
14 an inspection was made of a person or thing. . . . The state where the
15 communication took place will be the state of most significant relationship
16 in situations where there was no prior relationship between the parties to
17 the communication. If there was such a prior relationship between the
18 parties, the state of most significant relationship will be that where the
19 relationship was centered unless the state where the communication took
20 place has substantial contacts with the parties and the transaction.

21 *Id.*

22 In the case of written communications (the only kind of communication at issue in
23 this order), the comment suggests that the state where the communication was “received”
24 has the most significant relationship. This suggestion, made by the ALI in 1971, is
25 problematic in a day of electronic communications. Email communications – which
26 represent most of the communication at issue in this motion – usually go back and forth
27 between the communicating parties several times in a single email string, resulting in
28 virtually everyone being the “receiving” party for at least some of the communications.
Email communications can also be “received” by many people in many states
simultaneously. Thus, it may be impossible to determine which party “received” the
communication. Commentators have noted this difficulty with the Comment e approach.

1 See Graham C. Lilly & Molly Bishop Shadel, *When Privilege Fails: Interstate Litigation*
2 *and the Erosion of Privilege Law*, 66 Ark. L. Rev. 613, 643 (2013) (“determining the
3 state with the ‘most significant relationship’ may prove problematic with electronic
4 communication”).

5 This case provides an apt example. The first communication at issue in this
6 motion (Log 2, Control 809) is just over one page long, and yet it includes an initial email
7 between two people on July 15, 2005; a response copied to three more people on July 17,
8 2005; a forwarding of the email to still another person on July 18, 2005; and a response
9 from the recipient of the forwarded email that is addressed to five new individuals and
10 copied to one new individual, in addition to those already in the email chain. Three
11 communications, among a total of 12 people, over the course of four days render it
12 virtually impossible to determine where this communication was “received.” To make
13 matters more difficult, the parties have not provided the Court with the roles and
14 locations of many of the people on this email, and this is just one of dozens the Court
15 must review. Many of the documents at issue in this motion include the same kind of
16 back-and-forth among many persons over the course of several days.

17 The Court concludes that it would make little sense to find that the state with the
18 most significant relationship – and therefore the applicable privilege law – varies from
19 email to email, or maybe even within a single email string, depending on whom happens
20 to be copied and whom the Court deems to be the primary recipient. The Court finds that
21 the “received” test for written email communication is simply not workable in this case.²

22 The Court need not dwell longer on this issue, however, because the other part of
23 Comment e suggests that if the parties to the communication in question had a prior
24 relationship, then the state where that relationship was “centered” will usually be the state
25 with the most significant relationship. This approach provides a workable solution for
26 this case. The communications in question appear primarily to be among Bard in-house

27
28 ² The Court notes that Comment e says the place where the written communication
is received will “usually” be the state with the most significant relationship, leaving room
for other approaches.

1 lawyers, based at C.R. Bard headquarters in New Jersey, and managers and employees of
2 Bard Peripheral Vascular (“BPV”), located in Arizona. The subject of this litigation is
3 the design and performance of filters made and sold by BPV, as well as the marketing
4 and compliance efforts of BPV. Thus, although lawyers and paralegals for Bard may be
5 based in New Jersey, it appears their client for purposes of these communications, as well
6 as the subject of their communications, is primarily BPV and its activities in Arizona.

7 This appearance is confirmed by the evidence. BPV is a wholly-owned subsidiary
8 of C.R. Bard. Doc. 2219-1 at 2, ¶ 3. BPV is headquartered in Arizona, *id.*, and “is the
9 company that was and is primarily responsible for all activities related to” the filters at
10 issue in this case, *id.*, ¶ 4.

11 From its headquarters in Tempe, Arizona, [BPV] had and continues to have
12 principal responsibility in designing the filters, testing the filters, directing
13 the manufacturing of the filters, developing contents of the instructions for
14 use that accompanies the filters, communicating with the FDA regarding
15 the filters, developing marketing material for the filters, training the sales
16 force regarding interacting with physicians about [the] filters, developing
17 written communications to physicians related to the filters, developing and
maintaining a quality and post-market surveillance system regarding the
filters, and deciding when each new generation of filter is first marketed
and the previous filter stops being marketed.

18 *Id.*, ¶ 5. BPV is responsible for managing its own day-to-day operations. Doc. 2219-2 at
19 3-4. C.R. Bard is responsible for setting “corporate quality standards or guidance[] that
20 the divisions would need to follow at a global level,” *id.* at 4, but the divisions act as
21 “their own business that reports back up to Bard corporate or C.R. Bard,” *id.* at 5. C.R.
22 Bard’s legal department acts as “a full functioning legal department” covering “[a]ll
23 matters of legal breadth,” and the legal work for BPV. *Id.* at 6.

24 Given these facts, and the reality that lawyers advise clients on the clients’
25 activities and issues, not the lawyers’ activities and issue, the Court concludes both that
26 there was a preexisting relationship between the Bard in-house lawyers and BPV, and
27 that the relationship can most accurately be described as “centered” in Arizona. That is
28 where products are developed, marketing materials are written, FDA communications

1 originate, training occurs, testing is done, and legal advice is needed, received, and acted
2 upon.

3 The authors of the law review article cited above reach a similar conclusion. They
4 note that “[s]ince privileges primarily benefit their holders – such as a client or patient –
5 identifying the holder should be an important indication of which state has the most
6 significant relationship to the communication.” Lilly & Shadel, 66 Ark. L. Rev. at 649.
7 The privilege holder’s “affiliation with competing states is of paramount importance” and
8 “should be a primary factor in determining which state has the most significant
9 relationship to a communication.” *Id.*

10 The Court concludes that the preexisting relationship between the parties to the
11 communications at issue in this case was centered in Arizona, and that Arizona therefore
12 has the most significant relationship to the communications.³ As a result, the Court will
13 apply the privilege law of Arizona. Because Arizona also is the forum where this Court
14 is located, the Court need not further apply the conflict resolution principles set forth in
15 parts 1 and 2 of § 139.⁴

16 C. Plaintiffs’ Arguments.

17 Plaintiffs argue that New Jersey is the state with the most significant relationship
18 to the communications, but the evidence does not support this conclusion. It is true that
19 C.R. Bard’s corporate center, including its legal department, is located in New Jersey.

20
21 ³ Comment e says the state of the preexisting relationship controls “unless the state
22 where the communication took place has substantial contacts with the parties and the
23 transaction.” Restatement § 139, cmt. e. Because the state where the communication
took place is so difficult to identify given the nature of the electronic communications at
issue, the Court does not view this part of the comment as helpful or controlling.

24 ⁴ The Court notes that if the Court adopted Plaintiffs’ argument that New Jersey
25 has the most significant relationship, and if New Jersey privilege law provided that a
26 particular communication was not privileged, the Court likely would nonetheless apply
27 Arizona law if it would hold the communication privileged. Section 139(1) provides that
28 the forum’s law governs if admission of the evidence in question would be contrary to the
strong public policy of the forum. The Court views A.R.S. § 12-2234 – the Arizona
statute that governs the corporate attorney-client privilege – as a strong public policy.
The statute was passed by the Arizona Legislature and signed by the Governor in
response to an Arizona Supreme Court decision that weakened the corporate privilege,
and has remained unchanged for more than 20 years. *See Roman Catholic Diocese of
Phx. v. Super. Ct.*, 62 P.3d 970, 974 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2003).

1 But the evidence shows that C.R. Bard was not involved in the management of day-to-
2 day operations of BPV and, as discussed above, virtually all of the relevant conduct and
3 events occurred at BPV. The fact that Bard's legal department is located in New Jersey
4 is not dispositive, particularly when the relevant client, BPV, is located in Arizona.

5 Plaintiffs argue that "in the intra-corporate context, the parent and wholly-owned
6 subsidiary should be treated as one entity." Doc. 2222 at 4. Plaintiff cite *Teleglobe*
7 *Communications Corp. v. BCE Inc.*, 493 F.3d 345 (3d Cir. 2007), but that case addressed
8 the effect of disclosing an otherwise privileged attorney-parent communication to the
9 parent's subsidiary, *see id.* at 369-74. It did not address the complicated choice-of-law
10 issue presented in this case.

11 Plaintiffs argue that "it is reasonable to presume that Bard's lawyers relied on New
12 Jersey law" when advising BPV. Doc. 2222 at 4-5. The Court does not agree. Plaintiffs'
13 own cases suggest that lawyers typically apply the laws of their client's state when
14 providing guidance. *See, e.g., Compuware Corp. v. Moody's Investors Servs., Inc.*, 222
15 F.R.D. 124, 133 (E.D. Mich. 2004) (holding that New York company's lawyers advising
16 on privilege "surely relied on the protections of New York law").

17 Plaintiffs assert that Bard's litigation counsel never mentioned Arizona law in the
18 parties' meet and confer process, involving "claims going back several years" in related
19 cases. Doc. 2222 at 5. While this may support an estoppel argument, which Plaintiffs
20 have not made, it does not address the choice of law issue.

21 Plaintiffs assert that Bard "is hardly a major employer in Arizona" and that BPV
22 "does not specifically market in Arizona, has no retail locations here, and some of its
23 products including IVC filters are manufactured elsewhere." Doc. 2222 at 5. But
24 Plaintiffs do not dispute that BPV is an Arizona corporation with its principal place of
25 business here. The relevant question is not the significance of BPV's presence in
26 Arizona, but where the relationship between BPV and its lawyers was centered. For
27 reasons discussed above, the Court concludes that the relationship was centered in
28 Arizona, the location of the activities for which the legal advice was provided.

1 **II. Legal Standard.**

2 **A. Attorney-Client Privilege.**

3 The attorney-client privilege “is rigorously guarded to encourage full and frank
4 communications between attorneys and their clients and thereby promote broader public
5 interests in the observance of law and the administration of justice.” *State v. Sucharew*,
6 66 P.3d 59, 64, ¶ 10 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2003) (citing *State v. Towery*, 920 P.2d 290, 299 n.6
7 (Ariz. 1996) (internal quotation marks omitted)). “The privilege belongs to the client and
8 encompasses communication between the attorney and client made in the course of the
9 attorney’s professional employment.” *Id.* (citing *State v. Holsinger*, 601 P.2d 1054, 1058
10 (Ariz. 1979)). “The burden of showing the relationship, the confidential character of the
11 communication, and other necessary facts, is that of the party claiming the privilege.”
12 *State v. Sands*, 700 P.2d 1369, 1374 (Ariz. Ct. App. 1985) (citation omitted).

13 In Arizona, the corporate attorney-client privilege is codified at A.R.S. § 12-2234:

- 14 A. In a civil action an attorney shall not, without the consent of his
15 client, be examined as to any communication made by the client to
16 him, or his advice given thereon in the course of professional
17 employment. An attorney’s paralegal, assistant, secretary,
18 stenographer or clerk shall not, without the consent of his employer,
19 be examined concerning any fact the knowledge of which was
20 acquired in such capacity.
- 21 B. For purposes of subsection A, any communication is privileged
22 between an attorney for a corporation, governmental entity,
23 partnership, business, association or other similar entity or an
24 employer and any employee, agent or member of the entity or
25 employer regarding acts or omissions of or information obtained
26 from the employee, agent or member if the communication is either:
- 27 1. For the purpose of providing legal advice to the entity or
28 employer or to the employee, agent or member.
2. For the purpose of obtaining information in order to provide
 legal advice to the entity or employer or to the employee,
 agent or member.
- C. The privilege defined in this section shall not be construed to allow
 the employee to be relieved of a duty to disclose the facts solely
 because they have been communicated to an attorney.

1 “Based on its express terms, the statute protects from disclosure communications between
2 a corporation’s attorney – or his ‘paralegal, assistant, secretary, stenographer or clerk’ –
3 and ‘any employee, agent or member of the entity or employer regarding acts or
4 omissions of or information obtained from the employee agent or member’” if it is “[f]or
5 the purpose of obtaining information in order to provide legal advice to the entity or
6 employer or to the employee, agent or member.” *Salvation Army v. Bryson*, 273 P.3d
7 656, 662-63 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2012) (citations omitted).

8 **B. Work-Product Doctrine.**

9 “Ordinarily, a party may not discover documents and tangible things that are
10 prepared in anticipation of litigation or for trial by or for another party or its
11 representative (including the other party’s attorney, consultant, surety, indemnitor,
12 insurer, or agent).” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A). Courts in the Ninth Circuit use the
13 “because of” test to determine whether dual-purpose documents were prepared in
14 anticipation of litigation:

15 In circumstances where a document serves a dual purpose, that is, where it
16 was not prepared exclusively for litigation, then the “because of” test is
17 used. Dual purpose documents are deemed prepared because of litigation if
18 in light of the nature of the document and the factual situation in the
19 particular case, the document can be fairly said to have been prepared or
20 obtained because of the prospect of litigation. In applying the “because of”
21 standard, courts must consider the totality of the circumstances and
determine whether the document was created because of anticipated
litigation, and would not have been created in substantially similar form but
for the prospect of litigation.

22 *United States v. Richey*, 632 F.3d 559, 567-68 (9th Cir. 2011) (quotation marks and
23 citations omitted). The party invoking work-product protection bears the burden of
24 proof. *Conoco Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Justice*, 687 F.2d 724, 728 (9th Cir. 1982).

25 **III. Application.**

26 The parties have identified several categories of documents that are in dispute, and
27 have submitted for *in camera* review a binder of sample documents selected by the
28 parties (*see* Doc. 1319) and a matrix addressing the samples. The categories have been

1 identified by Plaintiffs, and are described in a letter dated April 4, 2016, from Plaintiffs’
2 counsel to Bard’s counsel. *See* Doc. 1476-3. This order will follow the category
3 numbering from the letter.

4 **A. Category 1a.**

5 Plaintiffs’ first category involves communications “where Defendants have failed
6 to establish [that] the communication evidences a request made to or from a lawyer for
7 the purpose of obtaining or providing legal advice of the lawyer,” specifically, “[e]ntries
8 where non-attorney employees are alleged to have given legal advice independent of a
9 lawyer.” Doc. 1476-3 at 2. Plaintiffs make three general arguments: (1) there is no
10 lawyer involved in the communications; (2) Bard has failed to provide facts suggesting
11 how the matter being discussed is of legal importance; and (3) any privilege that may
12 have attached was waived by the presence of a third party.

13 Arizona’s corporate attorney-client privilege protects a communication by an
14 attorney’s “paralegal, assistant, secretary, stenographer or clerk” if it would otherwise be
15 privileged. A.R.S. § 12-2234(A), (B); *see also Salvation Army*, 273 P.3d at 662-63. To
16 be protected, a communication must be made for the purpose of providing legal advice or
17 obtaining information to provide legal advice. A.R.S. § 12-2234(B)(1), (2). The fact that
18 a communication includes a party’s agent does not destroy the privilege. A.R.S. § 12-
19 2234(B); *Salvation Army*, 273 P.3d at 662-63.

20 Bard provided an affidavit from Candace Camarata, who serves as Bard’s assistant
21 general counsel for litigation.⁵ The affidavit establishes the following. Bard’s Law
22 Department routinely provides BPV’s employees with legal advice, including advice
23 about ongoing litigation. Doc. 1476-9 at 2, ¶¶ 2-3. Bard’s lawyers often utilize
24 paralegals, referred to as either a “Litigation Manager” or a “Trademark Manager,” to
25 facilitate these communications. *Id.*, ¶ 3. Due to Bard’s size, these messages must often

26
27 ⁵ Plaintiffs object to the Court’s reliance on Ms. Camarata’s affidavit because she
28 lacks personal knowledge of any communications to which she was not a party. The
Court views Ms. Camarata’s affidavit as attesting to procedures of Bard’s Law
Department in general, such as the general types of legal advice given and how paralegals
are utilized by in-house counsel. Ms. Camarata has personal knowledge of these facts.

1 be forwarded to others within the company who need the information to perform their
2 jobs. *Id.* at 3. ¶ 7.

3 The parties have provided the Court with five Category 1a documents. Each
4 communication involves at least one Bard paralegal.

5 The first disputed Category 1a communication – Log 2, Control 809 – is an email
6 string containing four separate messages. In the first message, an employee emails a
7 litigation paralegal about a pending case. The paralegal responds, while adding
8 additional legal personnel, including another paralegal and an in-house lawyer. The
9 paralegal asks the initial author of the email to forward her message to other individuals
10 in the author’s department. The message is then forwarded twice, and a consultant is
11 copied on the final message. The consultant, Richard Bliss, is a former Bard employee
12 who worked full time at BPV in Arizona under a consulting contract, serving as Head of
13 Quality and Regulatory while Bard searched for a permanent employee to fill that
14 position. Doc. 1476-8 at 3, ¶ 5. The Court concludes that Bliss constituted an agent
15 within the meaning of § 12-2234(B). Because this email string consists of
16 communications between Bard employees or agents and a paralegal, concerning ongoing
17 litigation, the Court concludes that it falls within the protection of A.R.S. § 12-2234.
18 *Salvation Army*, 273 P.3d at 662-63 (“the statute protects from disclosure
19 communications between a corporation’s attorney – or his paralegal, assistant, secretary,
20 stenographer or clerk – and any employee, agent or member of the entity or employer . . .
21 [f]or the purpose of obtaining information in order to provide legal advice to the entity or
22 employer or to the employee, agent or member.”) (quotation marks omitted).

23 Log 6, Control 8 consists of two cells from a larger spreadsheet apparently
24 tracking specific complaints regarding Bard filters. The cells include a “comments”
25 section in which various employees make dated entries regarding facts or events related
26 to the complaint. Bard redacted two entries that reflect communications from paralegals
27 regarding litigation and investigation of a complaint. Because the redacted portions
28 contain internal communications from Bard’s legal personnel, the Court concludes that

1 they are protected by Arizona's attorney-client privilege.

2 Upon review of the other Category 1a documents – Log 6, Control 193; Log 3,
3 Control 3184; and Log 3, Control 2244 – the Court concludes that they are privileged
4 under the Arizona statute. They reflect communications to or from Bard paralegals
5 seeking information needed for legal advice. The Court therefore denies Plaintiffs'
6 motion to compel production of documents in Category 1a.

7 **B. Category 1b.**

8 Plaintiffs' second category involves communications "where Defendants have
9 failed to establish the communication evidences a request made to or from a lawyer for
10 the purpose of obtaining or providing legal advice of the lawyer," including "[e]ntries
11 where both the author and recipient are non-lawyers and Defendants" failed to provide
12 key information, such as the lawyer asked to provide legal advice, the legal purpose for
13 which the lawyer was consulted, or why disclosure to a non-lawyer was necessary to
14 fulfill that purpose. Doc. 1476-3 at 2.

15 Plaintiffs challenge the Category 1b documents on many of the same grounds as
16 the Category 1a documents. These communications all generally involve a paralegal, as
17 in Category 1a. The Court concludes that two communications – Log 3, Control 2295,
18 and Log 4, Control 29 – are privileged for the reasons discussed above in Category 1a.
19 They reflect communications to or from Bard paralegals seeking information needed for
20 legal advice. *See Salvation Army*, 273 P.3d at 662-63.

21 Defendants produced the email at Log 3, Control 3028, but not the attached
22 memorandum. The Court rejects Plaintiffs' argument that the privilege does not apply
23 because the memorandum would not "be deemed a traditionally legal document." The
24 memorandum is addressed to two Bard lawyers, and two others at BPV, and reports on
25 reviews of literature, data bases, and other sources to obtain information regarding risks
26 and complications of particular filters. It also includes a list of known risks. The
27 information contained in the memorandum clearly is of a type that lawyers would
28 consider in advising the company on legal risks, and the Court finds that the

1 memorandum is covered by Arizona's attorney-client privilege. A.R.S. § 12-2234(B).

2 Log 6, Control 191 is a communication between an ESI vendor and Bard
3 employees regarding ESI searches to be done on behalf of Bard's outside counsel in this
4 case, for witnesses that have been mentioned in motions in this case. It is a document
5 prepared in connection with ongoing litigation, and is protected work product. Fed. R.
6 Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A). As the Court has noted in a previous order, the fact that a document
7 is prepared by non-lawyers and does not include legal advice does not mean that it was
8 not prepared in anticipation of litigation for purposes of Rule 26(b)(3)(A). Doc. 699 at 8.

9 Log 3, Control 57 contains redactions in an email chain. The Court has reviewed
10 the redacted communications. They include a request for legal advice from an in-house
11 attorney and the attorney's response, and are privileged.

12 The Court denies Plaintiffs' motion to compel as it pertains to Category 1b.

13 **C. Category 2.**

14 This category involves communications that do not show "that any legal advice
15 was given or requested. In other words, where Defendants have failed to establish that a
16 lawyer was being asked to act as a lawyer – giving advice with respect to the legal
17 implications of a proposed course of conduct." Doc. 1476-3 at 2.

18 With respect to Log 2, Control 403, the redacted portion of the email was from
19 Donna Passero, one of Bard's in-house lawyers. The redacted email language, and the
20 attachment that was withheld, include communications to and from Ms. Passero
21 regarding directions given to Bard sales representatives on statements they could or could
22 not make in their sales activities. Such communications have important legal implication
23 for Bard, and the communication is privileged.

24 Log 3, Control 1697 is a redacted email to Tom Conniff, one of Bard's in house
25 lawyers. It concerns terms of an agreement being drafted, and is privileged.

26 With respect to Log 6, Control 65, Bard states that it has previously produced the
27 cover email but not the attachment. The attachment is a spreadsheet titled "Trade
28 Complaints Tracker." It contains a number of rows and columns, including a column

1 titled “Status Summary: (Briefly Describe).” This column sometimes includes questions
2 from specific Bard personnel, as denoted by their initials, to other individuals, also
3 denoted by their initials. Some of the communications in this column are to or from in-
4 house attorney Gina Dunsmuir. Bard’s arguments with respect to this document do not
5 attempt to show that entire spreadsheet is privileged or created for a privileged purpose.
6 The portions that reflect internal communications to or from counsel appear to be
7 privileged, but not other portions that reflect facts such as event dates, identities of
8 competitors, and event summaries. Nor does the Court find that descriptions of counsel’s
9 communications with persons outside of Bard are privileged (such as event 3d, column
10 titled “Event Summary”). If Bard has withheld the entire spreadsheet, it should produce a
11 redacted version that redacts only those portions reflecting privileged communications.⁶

12 Log 3, Control 1694 is an email from outside counsel attaching a draft letter to
13 opposing counsel relating to contract negotiations. The email requests feedback on the
14 letter, and a response provides feedback. The communications are privileged.

15 Log 2, Control 741 is a communication between BPV personnel and at least two
16 Bard lawyers, Gary Mitchell and Gina Dunsmuir. These communications involve legal
17 advice or the obtaining of information in order to provide legal advice. They are
18 privileged.

19 The Court concludes that the four communications in Category 2 are protected by
20 the attorney-client privilege. The fifth document – Log 6, Control 65 – is only protected
21 to the extent it contains communications covered by the privilege, but not otherwise, and
22 unprivileged portions should be produced. The Court therefore grants in part and denies
23 in part Plaintiffs’ motion to compel as it pertains to Category 2.

24 **D. Category 3.**

25 Category 3 involves “[e]ntries where a business purpose would have provided a
26 sufficient cause for the communications.” Doc. 1476-3 at 2. For the attorney-client
27 privilege to attach, the communication must have been for the purpose of providing legal

28 ⁶ Bard did not invoke the work-product doctrine as to this document.

1 advice or for obtaining information in order to provide legal advice. A.R.S. § 12-
2 2234(B).

3 The Court already concluded that Log 2, Control 403 is privileged. Three of the
4 remaining four communications also are clearly privileged. Log 3, Control 334 is a
5 communication redacted to remove advice received from Bard's legal department. Log
6 2, Control 794 communicates legal advice of Donna Passero, one of Bard's in-house
7 lawyers. Log 5, Control 203 conveys information to Ms. Passero, a lawyer, from Dr.
8 Richard Lehmann, Bard's consultant retained by the legal department, regarding a patient
9 death. Each of these communications involves either the relaying of legal advice or the
10 providing of information to in-house attorneys in connection with risks faced by the
11 company. A.R.S. § 12-2234(B). The attorney-client privilege applies.

12 The fifth document, Log 1, Control 115, is a communication from Dr. Lehmann, a
13 consultant retained by Bard's legal department. The Court has previously found that the
14 legal department retained Dr. Lehmann in 2004 in anticipation of litigation after Bard
15 received notice of adverse events associated with the Recovery Filter. Doc. 699 at 5.
16 The communication concerns analysis performed by Dr. Lehmann in accordance with
17 Schedule A (Doc. 335 at 9) of his contract with the legal department, and Dr. Richard
18 Holcomb, another consultant to the legal department. Because Lehman and Holcomb
19 were agents of Bard in performing this work, and the result was communicated to Bard
20 attorney Donna Passero, among other Bard personnel, the Court concludes that it is
21 privileged under the Arizona statute: "any communication is privileged between an
22 attorney for [an] . . . entity . . . and any . . . agent . . . of the entity . . . [f]or the purpose of
23 obtaining information in order to provide legal advice to the entity." A.R.S. § 12-
24 2234(B)(2).

25 The Court also finds this document protected by the work-product doctrine. As
26 noted, the Court previously held that Dr. Lehmann was retained in anticipation of
27 litigation. Doc. 699. Plaintiffs argue that this communication also had a business
28 purpose, but a dual purpose document is still protected if it "would not have been created

1 in substantially similar form but for the prospect of litigation.” *Richey*, 632 F.3d at 567-
2 68. The Court cannot conclude that this work would have been done in substantially the
3 same form solely for business reasons. Nor is the Court persuaded by Plaintiffs’ citation
4 to *Phillips v. C.R. Bard, Inc.*, 290 F.R.D. 615, 652-53 (D. Nev. 2013). The cited pages of
5 that case concern a different email that did not include any legal counsel. *Id.*

6 The Court denies Plaintiffs’ motion to compel production of Category 3
7 documents.

8 **E. Category 4.**

9 This category involves “[e]ntries where in-house counsel was being asked to edit
10 or comment on non-traditional legal documents (technical, scientific, public relations,
11 management, and marketing) versus traditional legal instruments (contracts for a study,
12 retention of experts, patent applications).” Doc. 1476-3 at 2. Arizona courts have not
13 directly addressed the scope of the corporate attorney-client privilege in the context of
14 heavily-regulated industries. The Court must therefore “use its own best judgment in
15 predicting how [the Arizona Supreme Court] would decide the case,” and, in doing so,
16 “may be aided by looking to well-reasoned decisions from other jurisdictions.”
17 *Takahashi v. Loomis Armored Car Serv.*, 625 F.2d 314, 316 (9th Cir. 1980) (citations
18 omitted).

19 In the heavily-regulated industry context, “services that initially appear to be non-
20 legal in nature, like commenting upon and editing television ads and other promotional
21 materials, could, in fact, be legal advice.” *In re Vioxx Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 501 F. Supp. at
22 800. Some courts use the “primary purpose” standard, which protects communications in
23 which lawyers provide both legal and business services if “counsel was participating in
24 the communications primarily for the purpose of rendering legal advice or assistance.”
25 *Id.* at 798. Other courts employ the “because of” standard, which was developed in the
26 work-product context. *Phillips v. C.R. Bard, Inc.*, 290 F.R.D. 615, 628 (D. Nev. 2013).
27 Regardless of which standard is employed, the Court must conduct a document-by-
28 document, fact-specific inquiry. *See S.G.D. Eng’g, Ltd. v. Lockheed Martin Corp.*, No.

1 CV-11-02493-PHX-DGC, 2013 WL 2297175, at *3 (D. Ariz. May 24, 2013) (adopting
2 special master’s report and recommendation).

3 As an initial matter, Plaintiffs argue that several documents are not privileged
4 because they would not “be deemed a traditionally legal document.” This argument is
5 not supported by Arizona’s corporate attorney-client privilege, which applies broadly to
6 “any communication.” A.R.S. § 12-2234(B).

7 Four of the five communications – Log 2, Control 293; Log 3, Control 1965;
8 Log 3, Control 423; and Log 4, Control 4 – were made for the primary purpose of
9 providing legal advice or assistance. Each of these communications involves a Bard
10 lawyer providing comments. Although the comments arguably serve both a business and
11 a legal purpose, they appear to be for the primary purpose of providing legal advice.
12 Log 2, Control 293, for example, involves edits by two Bard lawyers, Donna Passero and
13 Judith Reinsdorf, to a communication to the sales force. The communication concerns
14 FDA regulation and adverse events, both of which strongly implicate legal issues, as do
15 the sales force’s public representations concerning such matters. Ms. Reinsdorf
16 specifically states that “[w]ith these edits, this email can serve as ‘legal’s approval.” The
17 other three documents similarly involve edits of Bard’s lawyers on matters implicating
18 legal issues.

19 Plaintiffs contend that Log 3, Control 1965 cannot be privileged because Bard had
20 an independent duty to produce the documents under 21 C.F.R. § 820.100 and under
21 Bard’s own policies and procedures. Even if this is true, it does not lead to the
22 conclusion that Plaintiffs are entitled to communications in which Bard receives legal
23 advice in the document’s preparation.

24 Log 6, Control 54 includes an email chain in which a Bard in-house attorney
25 provides comments on a letter to a doctor apparently affiliated with the Agency for
26 Health Care Research and Quality. The redacted portions of the emails are privileged, as
27 they reflect the attorney’s recommendations, and the attorney’s suggested edits to the
28 letter are privileged for the same reason. The Court cannot conclude that the attorney

1 was merely performing a business function. Communications with an agency regarding
2 studies of Bard products certainly could have legal implications, and review by counsel
3 of such communications would clearly involve potential legal issues.

4 The Court denies Plaintiffs' motion to compel production of Category 4
5 documents.

6 **F. Category 5.**

7 Category five involves "[e]ntries where both the author and the recipient are non-
8 lawyers and an attorney was merely copied on the communication." Doc. 1476-3 at 3.
9 Arizona's corporate attorney-client privilege law protects communications made for the
10 purpose of providing legal advice or information in order to provide legal advice. A.R.S.
11 § 12-2234(B).

12 Four of the five communications – Log 2, Control 859; Log 2, Control 816; Log 3,
13 Control 3987; and Log 3, Control 3161 – involve communications where a lawyer is
14 involved primarily for the purpose of rendering legal advice or assistance. The redacted
15 portions of Log 2, Control 859, for example, explicitly reference revisions from
16 discussions with outside products liability counsel. Log 2, Control 816 consists of
17 internal Bard communications about draft materials to be sent to the FDA, with an in-
18 house lawyer as a party to the communications. As the communications provide
19 information to a lawyer for the purpose of obtaining legal advice, they fall within A.R.S.
20 § 12-2234(B)(2). Log 3, Control 3987 is a draft of a communication to a regulator,
21 copied to a lawyer. Log 3, Control 3161 involves communications between Bard's
22 lawyers and BPV personnel regarding a research grant request. These communications
23 are privileged because they involve lawyers in the preparation of documents that have
24 potential legal significance. Involving lawyers in such communications provides them
25 with the information needed to provide legal advice on the issues of legal significance.
26 A.R.S. § 12-2234(B).

27 Log 1, Control 114 is a memo from Dr. Lehmann and Richard Holcomb to Bard's
28 medical director, copied to Donna Passero. As noted above, the Court has previously

1 found that the legal department retained Dr. Lehmann in anticipation of litigation after
2 Bard received notice of adverse events associated with the Recovery Filter. Doc. 699 at
3 5. The communication concerns analysis performed by Dr. Lehmann in accordance with
4 his contract with the legal department, and Dr. Holcomb, another consultant to the legal
5 department. Indeed, this document is closely related to Log 1, Control 115, discussed
6 above, and includes some of the same materials. Because Lehman and Holcomb were
7 agents of Bard in performing this work, and the result was communicated to Bard
8 attorney Donna Passero, among other Bard personnel, the Court concludes that it is
9 privileged under the Arizona statute: “any communication is privileged between an
10 attorney for [an] . . . entity . . . and any . . . agent . . . of the entity . . . [f]or the purpose of
11 obtaining information in order to provide legal advice to the entity.” A.R.S. § 12-
12 2234(B)(2).

13 The Court also finds this document protected by the work-product doctrine. Dr.
14 Lehmann was retained by the Bard legal department in anticipation of litigation.
15 Doc. 699. Plaintiffs argue that the communication also had a business purpose, but a dual
16 purpose document is protected if it “would not have been created in substantially similar
17 form but for the prospect of litigation.” *Richey*, 632 F.3d at 567-68. The Court cannot
18 conclude that this work would have been done in substantially the same form solely for
19 business reasons. Nor is the Court persuaded by Plaintiffs’ citation to *Phillips*, 290
20 F.R.D. at 652-53. The cited pages concern an email on a different subject that did not
21 include any legal counsel. *Id.*

22 The Court denies Plaintiffs’ motion to compel production of Category 5
23 documents.

24 **G. Category 6.**

25 This category involves “[e]ntries describing a communication to non-lawyers and
26 attorneys seeking simultaneous review and comment.” Doc. 1476-3 at 3. Three of the
27 five examples do not require the Court’s attention. Plaintiffs have withdrawn their
28 challenge to Log 3, Control 809, Bard has produced Log 6, Control 251, and the Court

1 determined above that Log 2, Control 816 is privileged.

2 The redacted portions of Log 3, Control 175 are privileged. The redacted portions
3 appear in an email from Judith Reinsdorf, one of Bard's in-house lawyers, to several Bard
4 personnel. Ms. Reinsdorf is providing substantive feedback on a plan to assess clinical
5 issues relating to the G2 filter. Ms. Reinsdorf's comments appear to be for the purpose of
6 providing legal advice.

7 The redacted portions of Log 3, Control 2099 are privileged. The redacted
8 portions appear in an email to Gina Dunsmuir, one of Bard's lawyers, and others, and
9 seek comments on draft talking points to Bard's sales force. Communications with sales
10 force, as noted above, can have significant legal implications, as illustrated by Plaintiffs'
11 claim in this case that Bard's sales force made misrepresentations concerning its
12 products. Because the communication solicits input from a lawyer on these issues, it falls
13 within A.R.S. § 12-2234(B).

14 The Court denies Plaintiffs' motion to compel production of Category 6
15 documents.

16 **H. Category 7.**

17 This category involves "[e]ntries that do not describe the author or recipient of the
18 communication, including attachments." Doc. 1476-3 at 3. Two of the five examples
19 do not require the Court's attention. The Court found above that Log 2, Control 403 is
20 privileged, and Bard has produced Log 6, Control 330.

21 Two of the remaining three documents are clearly privileged. Log 3, Control 224
22 contains legal advice of Bard's in-house and outside counsel. Log 6, Control 115
23 involves talking points from Bard's in-house counsel with respect to an earnings call that
24 will address ongoing litigation.

25 The final document, Log 3, Control 3089, is privileged. It involves an email
26 communication among Bard personnel, including both in-house and outside counsel,
27 attaching a draft document. In Category 1b, above, the Court concluded that the final
28 version of the attachment was privileged. The draft attachment is addressed to an in-

1 house Bard lawyer, and others at BPV, and reports on reviews of literature, data bases,
2 and other sources to obtain information regarding risks and complications of particular
3 filters. It also includes a list of known risks. The information contained in the
4 memorandum clearly is of a type that lawyers would consider in advising the company on
5 legal risks, and the Court finds that the memorandum is covered by the attorney-client
6 privilege.

7 The Court denies Plaintiffs' motion to compel production of Category 7
8 documents.

9 **I. Category 8.**

10 This category involves "[e]ntries where a non-party is an author or listed as
11 receiving a copy of the communication so as to have waived any attorney-client privilege
12 or work product." Doc. 1476-3 at 3. Arizona's corporate attorney-client privilege covers
13 "any employee, agent, or member." A.R.S. § 12-2234(B).

14 One of these examples does not require the Court's attention. Bard has already
15 produced Log 2, Control 1220. Plaintiffs object that they cannot verify this assertion
16 because Bard has not provided a bates number for the document. Bard is directed
17 promptly to provide Plaintiffs with the bates number of the unredacted version of Log 2,
18 Control 1220 it produced.

19 The remaining four documents all appear to be privileged. Log 2, Control 502
20 involves legal communications made by paralegals similar to the examples discussed in
21 Category 1a above. The Court concluded that those and similar communications are
22 privileged. Log 3, Control 335 and Log 3, Control 326 both involve Bard's intellectual
23 property counsel and a draft patent application. Log 2, Control 336 passes along
24 information received from Bard's lawyers for litigation purposes. The attorney-client
25 privilege applies to these documents unless it was waived.

26 The presence of consultants does not waive the privilege. As already noted,
27 Arizona's corporate privilege covers communications involving a corporation's "agents."
28 A.R.S. § 12-2234(B). What is more, the Court concludes that the Arizona Supreme

1 Court would likely adopt the “functional equivalent” test adopted by the Ninth Circuit,
2 which provides that consultants who act as the functional equivalent of an employee are
3 treated as an employee for purposes of the attorney-client privilege. *See United States v.*
4 *Graf*, 610 F.3d 1148, 1157-59 (9th Cir. 2010). Bard has provided evidence that both
5 Richard Bliss and John Kaufmann functioned as employees. *See* Doc. 1476-9 at 3, ¶¶ 5,
6 7. Under either the plain terms of A.R.S. § 12-2344(B) or the functional equivalent
7 doctrine, the presence of consultants did not result in waiver of an otherwise privileged
8 document.

9 The Court denies Plaintiffs’ motion to compel as it pertains to Category 8.

10 **IV. Remaining Issues.**

11 The Court expects that the parties will use this ruling as a guide to resolve
12 remaining privilege disputes. The parties shall update the Court as to their progress on
13 privilege issues in their joint submission for the next case management conference. In
14 that submission, the parties shall address whether they believe it would be helpful to
15 appoint a special master to resolve any additional privilege disputes.

16 **IT IS ORDERED** that Plaintiffs’ motion to compel (Doc. 1214) is **granted in**
17 **part** and **denied in part** as set forth above.

18 Dated this 25th day of July, 2016.

19
20
21 

22 _____
23 David G. Campbell
24 United States District Judge
25
26
27
28

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U.S. District Court

DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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Case Number: [2:15-md-02641-DGC](#)

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ORDER. The Court has reviewed the parties' briefing on issues in dispute with respect to Discovery Group 1. Docs. 4503, 4505, 4608, 4639. (In the future, responses and replies shall not be filed when the parties have each stated their positions in the initial filings, as here.) The Court concludes that limitations should not be placed on Plaintiffs' ex parte communications with treating physicians. The Court has reviewed cases cited by both sides, and finds that the weight of recent case law disfavors such limitations. See *In re Xarelto (Rivaroxaban) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2592, 2016 WL 915288 (E.D. La. Mar. 9, 2016); *In re Testosterone Replacement Therapy Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2545, 2016 WL 929343 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 7, 2016); *In re Benicar (Olmesartan) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2026, 2016 WL 1370998 (D.N.J. Apr. 6, 2016). Cases imposing such limitations are older than these recent cases and generally lack analysis in support of the limitations they impose. See, e.g., *In re Chantix (Varenicline) Prod. Liab. Litig.*, No. 2:09-CV-2039-IPJ, 2011 WL 9995561 (N.D. Ala. June 30, 2011); *In re OrthoEvra Prod. Liab. Litig.*, No. 1:06-40000, 2010 WL 320064 (N.D. Ohio Jan. 20, 2010); *In re Nuvaring Prod. Liab. Litig.*, No. 4:08MD1964 RWS, 2009 WL 775442 (E.D. Mo. Mar. 20, 2009). The Court finds the more recent decisions persuasive. The Court will adopt the disclosure requirements in the proposed case management order regarding ex parte communications. The Court also notes that it agrees with the Ninth Circuit's position in *Goodman v. Staples The Office Superstore, LLC*, 644 F.3d 817, 826 (9th Cir. 2011) ("a treating physician is only exempt from Rule 26(a)(2)(B)'s written report requirement to the extent that his opinions were formed during the course of treatment"). The parties have not briefed whether *Goodman* should apply in this MDL, but, if it does, the parties will not be permitted to present expert opinions that were not formed in the course of treatment unless those opinions were appropriately disclosed under Rule 26(a)(2). On another issue addressed in the briefing, the Court will not require that Defendants question treating physicians first. For treating physicians who would be called by Plaintiffs during their case in chief, "examination and cross-examination of a deponent proceed as they would at trial." Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(c)(1). The Court will adopt Plaintiffs' proposed order language on depositions of treating physicians. Finally, the Court will permit the deposition of one sales representative per case during Discovery Group 1. The Court concludes that such depositions will provide important information for bellwether selection, but that more than one deposition is not needed before selection. The Court will not impose the time or subject limits proposed by Defendants for the sales representative depositions. Signed by Judge David G Campbell on 2-6-17. This is a TEXT ENTRY ONLY. There is no PDF document associated with this entry. (DGC)

2:15-md-02641-DGC Notice has been electronically mailed to:

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6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

8 IN RE: Bard IVC Filters Products Liability
9 Litigation,
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No. MDL 15-02641-PHX DGC

**CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER
NO. 26**

13
14 The Court held a tenth case management conference on July 13, 2017. The
15 conference addressed ongoing matters identified in the parties' joint report. Doc. 6599.
16 The following matters are decided.

17 **A. Dr. Henry Deposition.**

18 In order to decide whether Dr. Henry should be re-deposed, the Court must decide
19 whether the objections asserted in his first deposition were appropriate. On or before
20 **July 28, 2017**, the parties shall file memoranda, not to exceed 12 pages, addressing the
21 following issues: (1) Does Federal Rule of Evidence 501 apply to the privilege asserted
22 by Dr. Henry's counsel? (2) If so, what state law supplies the rule of decision within the
23 meaning of Rule 501? (3) Does the applicable state law support the objection and
24 instruction made by Dr. Henry's attorney? (4) Even if the instruction and objection were
25 appropriate in the normal case, does assertion of the learned intermediary defense mean
26 that the objection and instruction should not be permitted?
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1 **B. Proposed Deposition of Dr. Altonaga.**

2 Case Management Order No. 24 addressed fact depositions in bellwether cases:
3 “These depositions may include Bard present or former employees only if the depositions
4 will likely produce probative evidence that could not reasonably have been obtained
5 during general discovery.” Doc. 5883 at 1-2. After considering the parties’ arguments,
6 the Court concludes that the evidence Plaintiffs now seek to elicit from Dr. Altonaga
7 could reasonably have been obtained during general discovery. Plaintiffs do not seek
8 facts unique to any of the bellwether cases, but instead to obtain Bard information that
9 existed at the time of the design, sale, and use of the various filters at issue in the
10 bellwether cases. While bellwether cases had not been identified during general
11 discovery, Plaintiffs clearly understood that most of the cases in this MDL concern the
12 G2-series or Eclipse filters, and could have deposed Dr. Altonaga during general
13 discovery regarding facts related to those filters and the years in which they were offered
14 for sale. As a result, the requirement of CMO 24 is not satisfied and the Court will not
15 permit Plaintiffs to depose Dr. Altonaga as part of bellwether-case discovery.

16 **C. Communications Among Plaintiffs’ Experts.**

17 The Court and parties held a discussion regarding the discoverability of
18 communications between Plaintiffs’ experts, with the Court attempting to provide some
19 guidance on its interpretation of Rule 26(b)(4). Plaintiffs shall produce communications
20 among their experts to Defendants. If Plaintiffs conclude that any such communications
21 are properly withheld, they shall provide Defendants with a privilege log that identifies
22 the specific basis on which Plaintiffs’ conclude that the communications are protected
23 under Rule 26(b). If the parties have disagreements after this production has occurred,
24 they should place a conference call to the Court for a resolution.

25 **D. Preemption Motion Briefing.**

26 The Court sets the following schedule for completion of briefing on Defendants’
27 preemption motion for summary judgment:
28

- Plaintiffs' experts on preemption shall be disclosed by **July 21, 2017**;
- Defense experts on preemption, if sought by Defendants and allowed by the Court after a conference call, shall be disclosed by **August 4, 2017**;
- Preemption experts shall be deposed by **August 18, 2017**;
- Plaintiffs' response to Defendants' motion shall be filed by **September 1, 2017**;
- Defendants' reply shall be filed by **September 22, 2017**.

Defendants' motion to seal exhibits will be briefed on the following schedule:

- Defendants' amended motion to seal shall be filed on or before **July 28, 2017**;
- Plaintiffs' response shall be filed on or before **August 28, 2017**;
- Defendants' reply shall be filed on or before **September 13, 2017**.

E. Class Certification Hearing.

The Court will allow 45 minutes per side for oral argument at the class certification hearing on **August 11, 2017**. The Court does not expect this to be an evidentiary hearing.

F. Next Case Management Conference and Science Day.

The next case management conference will be held on **October 5, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** The parties shall file a joint report seven days before the conference.

A science day will also be held on **October 5, 2017**. The Court will set aside two hours per side for science presentations.

G. Motions to Disqualify Experts.

Plaintiffs shall respond to the recently filed motion to disqualify Drs. Vogelzang and Desai by **July 28, 2017**. Defendants shall file a reply by **August 4, 2017**. The Court will endeavor to review this motion before the class certification hearing on August 11, 2017.

1 **H. Bellwether Trial Issues.**

2 The Court and the parties discussed preparation for and scheduling of bellwether
3 trials. The Court advised the parties that it cannot know whether bellwether trials will be
4 possible in the first quarter of 2018 until it sees the volume and substance of the *Daubert*
5 motions and motions for summary judgment to be filed in late August. The Court and
6 parties will address the scheduling of bellwether trials on October 5, 2017.

7 The Court advised the parties that it may be very difficult for the Court to conduct
8 all six bellwether trials within a 12 or 18 month period, given the Court's docket and
9 administrative responsibilities. The Court raised the possibility of enlisting other judges
10 to try some of the bellwether cases. If such an approach were taken, the trials probably
11 could be scheduled over the course of a year or 18 months, dates could be blocked out,
12 and the other judges could be identified. The parties should address this issue in the joint
13 report to be filed before the conference on October 5, 2017.

14 The Court advised the parties of its practices regarding a final pretrial conference
15 and motions in limine. The Court also stated that it would be willing to entertain the
16 possibility of juror questionnaires.

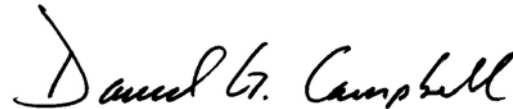
17 **I. Other Matters.**

18 The Court and parties discussed choice of law issues that might arise in the
19 bellwether cases. The Court asked the parties to discuss this issue and see if they can
20 agree on a method for briefing. It may be that such briefing needs to occur as part of the
21 summary judgment briefing, particularly since a choice of law will not be necessary
22 unless the law of the possible jurisdictions is in conflict on specific points raised in the
23 summary judgment briefing. If the parties need the Court's guidance on this matter
24 before summary judgment briefs are filed, they may place a telephone call to the Court.

25 The Court will also require the parties to discuss bellwether summary judgment
26 motions before they are filed on August 21, 2017. The purpose of such discussion will be
27 to identify claims that Plaintiffs intend to assert in each of the bellwether cases and
28 arguments Defendants intend to make with respect to such claims. The parties should

1 endeavor to focus and streamline the briefing wherever possible. If issues are to be
2 addressed that apply to some or all of the bellwether cases, they should be briefed only
3 once. The parties should also endeavor to make the statements of fact as efficient as
4 possible.

5 Dated this 14th day of July, 2017.

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David G. Campbell
United States District Judge
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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

8 IN RE: Bard IVC Filters Products Liability
9 Litigation,
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No. MDL 15-02641-PHX DGC

CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER
NO. 27

13
14 The Court held an eleventh case management conference on October 5, 2017. The
15 conference addressed ongoing matters identified in the parties' joint report. Doc. 7854.

16 **A. Privilege Issues.**

17 Defendants asked the Court to require Plaintiffs to include in their privilege log
18 any communications withheld from production that occurred between experts, even if
19 they included a lawyer. After discussion, the Court declined to require a privilege log.
20 Instead, Plaintiffs shall provide the Court all such communications that they have
21 withheld, for *in camera* review. The Court will randomly select ten communications and
22 review them for privilege. Plaintiffs shall provide these documents on or before
23 **October 13, 2017.**

24 Defendants also expressed concern about the method used for collecting email
25 communications among Plaintiffs' experts at Northwestern University. The Court
26 directed Plaintiffs' counsel to communicate with these experts, particularly in light of one
27 email that was provided by Defendants at the hearing, to ensure that all communications
28 have been produced. Plaintiffs shall do so no later than **October 13, 2017.**

1 **B. Motion Hearings.**

2 The Court will hold motion hearings on **November 17, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.,**
3 **December 15, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.,** and **January 19, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.** These hearings
4 will concern pending *Daubert* motions, motions to disqualify experts, and motions for
5 summary judgment. The motion for summary judgment on preemption will be heard on
6 **November 17, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.** The parties shall meet and confer regarding the
7 motions to be heard on these dates and shall submit their joint proposal to the Court by
8 **October 13, 2017.**

9 **C. Scheduling of Bellwether Trials.**

10 The Booker bellwether trial will be held on **March 13-16, 20-23, and 27-30,**
11 **2018.** The Jones bellwether trial will be held on **May 15-18, 22-25, and 29-30, and**
12 **June 1, 2018.** The Court will schedule other bellwether trials, and will set dates for final
13 pretrial conference in Booker and Jones, at coming status conferences.

14 **D. Science Day.**

15 The Court held a “science day” on October 5, 2017. The parties agreed at the
16 beginning of the discussion that it need not be on the record. Each side presented
17 relevant information in support of their position on various science issues in the case.
18 Each side also presented some information supporting their liability arguments in the
19 case. The Court listened for the purpose of understanding issues it will need to address in
20 upcoming motions hearings. The Court formed no view on the question of liability or the
21 merits of any motion as a result of the hearing, and returned all exhibits to the parties at
22 the end of the discussion.

23 **E. Plaintiffs’ Motion for Partial Summary Judgment.**

24 Plaintiffs have filed a for summary judgment motion in the Jones case. Doc. 7363.
25 Defendants stated at the conference that they have no opposition to the granting of the
26 motion. The Jones Plaintiffs’ motion for partial summary judgment on Defendants’
27 thirteenth affirmative defense (Doc. 7363) is therefore **granted.**

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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
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9 IN RE: Bard IVC Filters Products Liability
10 Litigation,
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No. MDL 15-02641-PHX DGC
ORDER

14
15 At the tenth case management conference on July 13, 2017, the Court and parties
16 discussed the discoverability of communications between Plaintiffs' experts, with the
17 Court attempting to provide some guidance on its interpretation of Rule 26(b)(4).
18 *See* Doc. 6765. The Court thereafter directed Plaintiffs to produce to Defendants all
19 discoverable communications among their experts and to provide a privilege log that
20 identifies the specific basis on which Plaintiffs conclude that any communications are
21 protected under Rule 26(b). Doc. 6799 at 2.

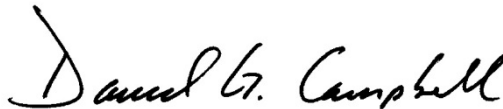
22 In their recent status report, the parties raised a dispute regarding Plaintiffs'
23 production of the expert communications and privilege log. Doc. 7854 at 11-17.
24 Plaintiffs state that they have produced all communications between attorneys and
25 experts excepted from Rule 26(b)(4)'s protection and, with one exception, have produced
26 every communication between experts even if attorneys were copied on the
27 communications. *Id.* at 12. Defendants take the position that every communication from
28 an expert either needs to be produced or listed on a privilege log. *Id.* at 13-14.

1 The dispute was addressed at the eleventh case management conference on
2 October 5, 2017. *See* Doc. 8144. The Court declined to require a privilege log but, with
3 the parties' consent, directed Plaintiffs to submit the expert communications withheld for
4 *in camera* review of ten randomly selected communications. Doc. 8113 at 1. Plaintiffs
5 provided the communications to the Court on October 13, 2017. *See* Doc. 8182.

6 The Court has completed its review and finds that the communications are
7 protected by Rule 26(b)(4) and were properly withheld. *See Izzo v. Wal-Mart Stores,*
8 *Inc.*, No. 2:15-cv-01142-JAD-NJK, 2016 WL 593532, at *4 (D. Nev. Feb. 11, 2016)
9 (finding that the withholding party met its burden of showing that expert-attorney
10 communications did not fall within one of the exceptions to Rule 26(b)(4)(C)).

11 **IT IS ORDERED** that Plaintiffs need not produce the withheld expert
12 communications or provide a privilege log on these communications to Defendants.

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14 Dated this 20th day of October, 2017.

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19 David G. Campbell
20 United States District Judge
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